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LGBT Voters Critical As Governor's Race In Dead Heat

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COVER

4 Michigan races to watch on election night

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> "I think gay men are superior beings in my mind. I do believe that."
>
> – Lisa Kudrow, page 26

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Michigan Races To Watch On Election Night

BY AJ TRAGER

Michigan takes to the polls Nov. 4 to vote for the next local and statewide elected officials. BTL has provided candidate information, a 20-page 2014 Voter's Guide and has followed the races as they progressed through the election season. All of the interviews and analysis can be found online at www.pridesource.com or www.mivoterguide.com.

A few hot races to follow this coming Tuesday include those for governor, state attorney general, Michigan's Supreme Court and the U.S. Senate. Each of the Democratic candidates from these races has come out in support of same-sex marriage and LGBT inclusive policies and has been heavily endorsed by Between The Lines. If the Michigan House shifts from Republican control, it will have a critical impact for LGBT citizens.

Democratic candidate for Governor Mark Schauer with his running mate Lisa Brown.

Governor's Race

Running for governor, Democratic candidate Mark Schauer has been tied in many polls this October with incumbent Rick Snyder. In his first term as governor, Snyder has setback LGBT initiatives and is the named defendant in Michigan's same-sex marriage equality case. Just this year Snyder allowed the passage of a "rape insurance" bill, adding an insurance clause that requires women to purchase an added package if they want an abortion, regardless of the circumstances that led to the pregnancy. Mark Schauer, on the other hand, would not pursue anti-woman policies like "rape insurance" and has vowed to dismiss the appeal of the DeBoer v Snyder decision made in March by Federal Judge Friedman. He said he would endorse and push for an amendment to the state's civil rights act, which would include gender identity and sexual orientation protections.

In a September interview with BTL, Schauer said, "We need to change our state in some pretty profound ways, and the fact that our current governor continues – even after the U.S. Supreme Court decision – to not recognize those 300 couples that were married that day (March 22), many of whom where married by Lisa (Brown his running mate), is a form of discrimination and insensitivity. But then further, to hear his hollow rhetoric about amending Elliott-Larsen underscores the fact that we need to change. Lisa and I, because of our core values, are about equality, and we will make sure that we sign into law a very strong amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act."

Race For Attorney General

Another Mark on the ticket is Democratic candidate Mark Totten, running for state attorney general. Incumbent Attorney General Bill Schuette has led the state's appeal of the DeBoer v Snyder decision, something that Totten vows he will dismiss once elected. The latest poll by Clarity Campaign Labs shows the race tied, with Schuette and Totten both sharing 38 percent of the vote with a 3 percent margin of error.

Michigan Supreme Court

The Michigan Supreme Court is the highest court in the state and has a chance to elect Richard Bernstein, an LGBT ally and blind justice. Bernstein walks through life with societal hurdles that he describes as close to the LGBT experience. He has come out in strong favor of LGBT rights. Five candidates are listed for the 8-year-term judicial race.

"There are self-appointed experts who tend to think that they know what is best for everybody. We all have our own stories, and we all have our own experiences, and it really is what makes us who we are. If you talk to a disabled person, or anyone in the circumstances that our communities are in, they'll say people pre-judge us. We have to work harder to basically do basic things. I have found that to be the case with nearly everything I have done. And I am willing to bet that your constituency goes through the same thing," Bernstein said in an interview with BTL, which readers can find online at www.pridesource.com.

U.S Senate

Democratic candidate Gary Peters is running for the U.S. Senate seat that will be vacated by Sen. Carl Levin, who has served for 35 years. As one of two representatives from the state, Peters, if elected, will have a chance to influence policy on the national stage.

In an interview with BTL he said, "I take great pride that I've been in the leadership on issues that are important to the LGBT community. I was very active in the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. I served as a former Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy Reserve and served with many men and women who are very patriotic, and I wasn't concerned with what their sexual orientation was. To me, the most important thing was that they were patriots that wanted to serve their country. So I was very pleased that DADT was repealed.

"I also supported the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act. I signed the amicus brief to support the overturning of the DOMA, and I am a co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and will continue to work on issues that I think are important for us to address as a society. I think my opponent has clearly shown, not only will she not be a leader, but she is opposed to these issues. When push comes to shove, she stays silent."

Find our BTL interview with Peters online at www.pridesource.com.

U.S. House

Running in the 11th U.S. Congressional District is Democrat Bobby McKenzie, who seeks to prevail over Republican David Trott from the foreclosure team of Trott & Trott. McKenzie is widely regarded as an expert in foreign affairs and says he is a big believer in equality. When asked if he would fight for LGBT equality, McKenzie responded "without question."

Michigan House of Representatives

The trajectory of the November election changed dramatically in August when each party chose who would be their lead candidates for each race. In the 98th House district, which covers Midland and parts of Bay County, Joan Brausch (D) and Gary Glenn (R) differ immensely on LGBT issues. Glenn is adamant about refusing to allow same-sex marriage and LGBT rights to pass easily in the Michigan legislature. Brausch, on the other hand, has on many occasions come out in support of LGBT rights.

In Lapeer county, the 82nd District, Democrats have a chance to take back the House seat with Marcus Middleton as he is placed contrary to Republican candidate Todd Courser, a tea party activist who believes in the "gay agenda."

Gays In State House

Democrats seem guaranteed a win with the historically Democratic house seat of the 35th District, which covers Southfield where openly gay candidate, Jeremy Moss, seeks the House seat. He has led Southfield as a City Council member and if elected will be one of the youngest elected officials in Michigan's history.

Jeremy Moss

Jon Hoadley

Running for the Democrats in the 60h House district of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Township is openly gay candidate Jon Hoadley. The seat also appears a guaranteed win for the Democrats, with Hoadley, CEO of the political strategy firm Badlands, hoping to win the seat and keep west Michigan moving forward towards equality.

Get out and vote Nov. 4. Visit www.mivoterguide.com to see which candidates in your area BTL has endorsed, as well as the candidate endorsements from other groups from around the state.

LGBT Guide To Elections Across the U.S.

BY LISA KEEN

This year's election night is likely to be an important one for the LGBT history books: voters in Massachusetts are expected to elect the nation's first-ever openly gay state attorney general, and voters in Maine could very well elect the nation's first-ever openly gay governor. Two candidates for Congress could well become the first openly gay Republicans elected to the U.S. House and, if they both succeed, they will join what will number as the largest ever contingent of openly LGBT members of Congress — up from seven to as many as 12 if all newcomers are successful.

Add to this mix a large number of openly LGBT candidates around the country for various state and local offices.

These are the top 10 races to keep an eye on nationally Nov. 4:

1 **Maine:** U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud is holding onto a narrow lead over incumbent Republican Paul LePage and progressive independent Eliot Cutler in a race for the governorship. If he's successful, Michaud will become the first ever openly gay person elected governor. Collectively, the latest polls (see RealClearPolitics) show a virtual tie between Michaud and LePage, with Cutler siphoning off 16 points. But interestingly, the latest poll from Bangor Daily News showed Michaud up by six points over LePage. (Former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey came out as gay in 2004 while governor, then promptly resigned.) Michaud came out as gay one year ago in an op-ed, saying he didn't want his campaign for governor to be undermined by "whisper campaigns."

2 **Massachusetts:** Attorney Maura Healey, a first-time candidate, won a stunning victory in the September primary against a well-entrenched incumbent Democrat – even pro-LGBT Governor Deval Patrick endorsed the incumbent. But Healey trounced former state Senator Warren Tolman by more than 24 points. She is largely expected to do the same with the Republican Party's nominee, John Miller. And, if successful, Healey will become the nation's first openly gay person elected as a state attorney general. She is best known in the LGBT community for her work as assistant attorney general on the Massachusetts challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act, a lawsuit complementary to one led by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

3 **Massachusetts:** Former state Senator Richard Tisei almost made history two years ago when he narrowly missed becoming the first openly gay Republican to be elected to Congress. He's back this year, seeking the same seat, and he's holding onto a slight lead in some polls. The Democratic incumbent was the surprising loser in the September primary, so Tisei's competition is Iraq War veteran Seth Moulton, the Democrat. LGBT newspaper publisher Sue O'Connell is backing Tisei; former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank is backing Moulton. Congress has had gay Republicans before: Steve Gunderson and Jim Kolbe. If elected, Tisei would become the first openly gay Republican elected to Congress.

4 **California:** Carl DeMaio is the second person vying to become the first openly gay Republican elected to Congress, but his effort has lost traction – first, by failing to win the support of the LGBT community, and second, by being waylaid by a former campaign aide's claim that DeMaio sexually harassed him. (San Diego County prosecutors announced just this week that they would not be pressing charges.) DeMaio, a former member of the San Diego City Council, is up against incumbent Democrat Scott Peters who has won endorsement from the Human Rights Campaign. Congressional District 52 is said to be evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. The latest poll, in early October, showed DeMaio with a three-point lead.

5 **New York:** First-term U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY18) is in a tough fight for re-election against a Republican opponent he beat two years ago. Maloney won his first-term by defeating incumbent Republican Nan Hayworth, who's back for another round. Hayworth earned only a 71 rating from HRC in her one Congressional term.

6 **North Carolina:** Openly gay "American Idol" star Clay Aiken, a Democrat, is struggling to replace incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers, who represents the 2nd Congressional District in North Carolina and earned a zero rating from HRC for two terms. Aiken has done well in fundraising from individuals, while Ellmers has relied on party funding, but polls still show Ellmers with a sizable lead.

7 **Massachusetts:** A former aide to the late U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy is hoping to become the nation's first openly gay

See LGBT Election USA, page 17

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BRIEF

Federal Funding Awarded To Improve Outcomes For LGBT Youth In State

The Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH), the statewide leader on adolescent sexual health, has been awarded a three-year federal grant for their project called Building a Movement for Michigan Gay Straight Alliances (BAMM GSAs). This project will bring together otherwise isolated stakeholders across Michigan, all of which are experienced in improving health outcomes of LGBT youth, to increase the number and capacity of GSAs in the state.

Awarded early last month through the Mobilization for Health: National Prevention Partnership Awards (NPPA) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), MOASH has already begun its work with six committed partners including Equality Michigan, Southeast Michigan Chapter of GLSEN, GLSEN-West Michigan Chapter, Kent Intermediate School District, Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Neutral Zone (NZ).

This year, BAMM GSAs will conduct a situational assessment of Michigan GSAs, hold the first annual statewide Working Summit on GSAs and create a Michigan-specific model program for organizational development of GSAs. In future years, in-person advising and technical assistance will be provided to GSAs across the state.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be able to work with such outstanding partners on a project that will have a significant impact on the youth of Michigan," said Shelly L. Hoffman, MOASH's executive director.

GSAs are youth organizations that provide safe space for LGBT young people and improve school climate for all students. According to GLSEN's 2011 Climate Report, Michigan LGBT youth report being victimized and excluded, as well as sexually, verbally and physically harassed at dramatically higher rates than youth that do not identify as LGBT. Based on results from the Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey, LGBT youth are much more likely than their non-LGBT peers to miss school, be physically injured, feel depressed, consider or attempt suicide, use substances and engage in risky sexual behavior. GSAs directly impact these factors by reducing engagement in risky behaviors and improving health outcomes through social support, group affirmations and advocacy for supportive policies.

Prior to MOASH's BAMM GSAs program, no plan was in place to develop a statewide Michigan strategy, network or resource for the promotion, implementation or development of GSAs. BAMM GSAs has the potential to become a transformational intervention that will address structural deficits in the quality and accessibility of services and resources for LGBT youth in Michigan.

Those who wish to follow MOASH's progress are directed to sign up for the MOASH e-newsletter and press releases and like MOASH's Facebook page to stay informed on this exciting and groundbreaking program.

Visit this website to find out more: www.moash.org.

"The homosexual movement is an anti-freedom movement," declared Stacy Swimp above, a right-wing advocate and minister in Flint and Jackson. Swimp is also a convicted felon. He spent time in Michigan's prison system after being convicted in 1994 of assault with intent to murder. BTL photo: Todd Heywood

Pastors Declare Challenge To Civil Rights For Michigan LGBT Community

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – Pastors and Christian leaders gathered on the steps of the state Capitol the morning of Oct. 22 to demand the state legislature refuse to amend Michigan's civil rights act to include the LGBT community.

"The homosexual movement is an anti-freedom movement," declared Stacy Swimp, a right-wing advocate and minister in Flint and Jackson. Swimp is also a convicted felon. He spent time in Michigan's prison system after being convicted in 1994 of assault with intent to murder.

Swimp spoke to about 150 people gathered on the steps of the Capitol building, including three sitting GOP lawmakers. The group formed in response to public conversations about amending Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity and or expression as protected classes in the law.

Pastor Tim Berlin of Warren told the crowd that inclusion of the LGBT community in the civil rights act was "a dangerous slippery slope to an unknown destination."

Bridgeport minister R.B. Ouellette said the group did not seek "to deny anyone their rights," adding, "Our rights are being threatened."

Ouellette pointed to a legal case in Houston, Texas.

There, ministers involved in a coalition to repeal the city's non-discrimination act have sued the city over their failed ballot initiative. The coalition failed to garner enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. The group is suing because a city official gave preliminary approval of the signatures but eventually found there were not enough valid signatures to approve the ballot measure. As part of the defense litigation, the city has subpoenaed a bevy of documents from ministers involved, including sermons and emails. The Houston Chronicle reports city officials have chastised the outside law firm for seeking sermons, with Mayor Annise Parker saying it went too far.

Ouellette failed to mention the ongoing litigation, or the fact it was initiated by members of the failed ballot initiative. But that didn't stop him from saying sermons had never been taken by the government, except in "Nazi Germany" and "Communist Russia."

Rep. Mike Shirkey (R-Jackson) told Between The Lines that he has not seen any evidence that LGBT people have been discriminated against in housing or employment. Asked how many cases he would require to support adding the LGBT community to the civil rights act, he said he wouldn't do it.

"I would defend their rights," he said. He asserted that a person discriminated against for their sexual orientation or gender identity had remedy in the courts already.

Shirkey was not alone in saying he was unaware of a single case of anti-gay or anti-transgender discrimination in Michigan. Many of the pastors stated the same thing from the podium. But a June 2013 report from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights found the opposite.

"We do not believe that this report mandates particular conclusions must be drawn on the merits of particular legislation; instead we assert that the report conclusively establishes that the economic implications of LGBT inclusion/exclusion are real, they are substantial, they are predictable and they must be a part of any informed policy discussion," wrote Daniel Krichbaum, executive director of MDCR, in his letter introducing the report to Commissioners.

And just last month, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed suit against Detroit-based R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes, Inc. for discriminating against a transgender

See Pastors, page 12

ELECTION 2014 Revealing Bigotry: Taking On Gary Glenn

A Battleground For State's Direction In 98th House District

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ
WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY AJ TRAGER

In a Sept. 27 op-ed in the Detroit News, conservative Republican columnist Nolan Finley raised serious concerns about three Republican candidates running for the state house Nov. 4. Todd Courser of Lapeer, Cindy Gamrat of Plainwell and Gary Glenn of Midland – all correctly identified by Finley as a "A trio (who) seeks tea party tyranny."

Nolan describes Glenn and Courser as "extremely anti-gay and (who) would turn the Republican Party into a fundamentalist denomination of the Christian Church if given the chance." Finley warned that the trio's narrow views on the Legislature could cripple the government and its ability to work across the aisle to move the state forward. Their agenda also includes killing any expansion of the Elliot-Larsen act to include LGBT protections.

In an Oct. 21 article "Glenn answers Detroit News column," Midland Daily News reporter John Kennett asked Glenn to respond to a number of things Finley accused him of, including the charge of being extremely anti-gay. Glenn responded to MDN via email. In question 5, Kennett wrote, "Are you a 'homophobic bigot' who hates gays as suggested by others?"

Democratic candidate for the 98th District state house seat, Joan Brausch, with LGBTQ Democratic Caucus Chair Mark LaChey. LaChey has helped organize fundraising under the Gays Against Gary Glenn project, to help Brausch defeat anti-gay candidate Gary Glenn. BTL file photo: AJ Trager

"Such pejorative and prejudiced name-calling, whoever's guilty of it, demonstrates an attitude of intolerance toward the majority of voters in Bay and Midland counties who believe marriage should remain legally defined as a union of one man and one woman. As Americans, we're all guaranteed equal rights as individuals, not as part of any particular group. People are free to live their lives however they choose, but they don't have the right to redefine marriage or to force taxpayers to subsidize beliefs with which they disagree," Glenn wrote.

Unfortunately, the reporter did not ask any follow-up questions, which could have shed light on Glenn's extensive anti-gay activities during the past 14 years. Glenn employed plenty of pejorative and prejudiced language of his own toward LGBT people. Researching Glenn's history, one does not have to search the Internet for long before statements made by him, about LGBT people, are found.

Sending A Message

On Oct. 22, Michigan Information and Research Service (MIRS) writer Craig Mauger covered the candidates for Michigan's 98th

See Glenn, page 12

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- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breast-feed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

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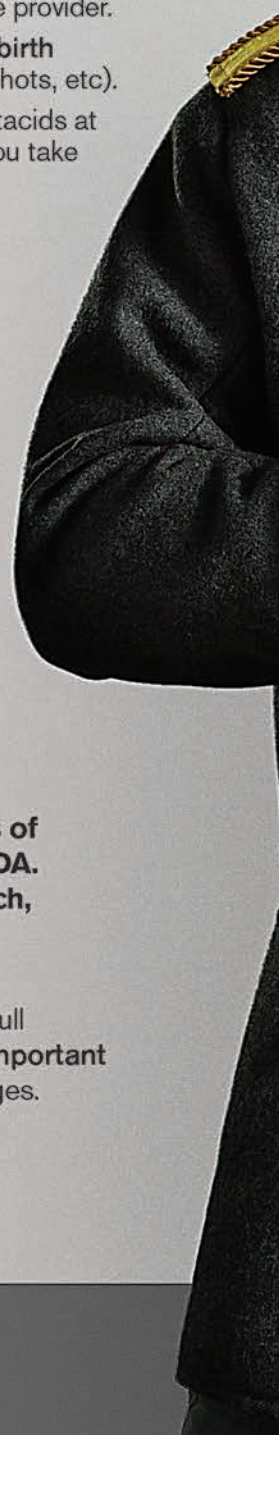

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Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.
STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in 1 pill, once a day.
Ask if it's right for you.
STRIBILD®
elvitegravir 150mg/ cobicistat 150mg/ emtricitabine 200mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets
GILEAD

Patient Information

STRIBILD® (STRY-bild)
(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
   - feel very weak or tired
   - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
   - have trouble breathing
   - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
   - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
   - feel dizzy or lightheaded
   - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
   - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
   - dark "tea-colored" urine
   - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
   - loss of appetite for several days or longer
   - nausea
   - stomach pain

   You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.
3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
   - Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone
   - Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
   - If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John's wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Atripla®, Combivir®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®, Truvada®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See "What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?"**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
  - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
  - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
  - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
  - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
  - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
  - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
  - bepridil hydrochloride (Vascor®, Bepadin®)
  - bosentan (Tracleer®)
  - buspirone
  - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®)
  - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
  - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
  - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
  - colchicine (Colcrys®)
  - medicines that contain dexamethasone
  - diazepam (Valium®)
  - digoxin (Lanoxin®)
  - disopyramide (Norpace®)
  - estazolam
  - ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
  - flecainide (Tambocor®)
  - flurazepam
  - fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
  - itraconazole (Sporanox®)
  - ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
  - lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
  - mexiletine
  - oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
  - perphenazine
  - phenobarbital (Luminal®)
  - phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
  - propafenone (Rythmol®)
  - quinidine (Neudexta®)
  - rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
  - rifapentine (Priftin®)
  - risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
  - salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
  - sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
  - tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
  - telithromycin (Ketek®)
  - thioridazine
  - voriconazole (Vfend®)
  - warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
  - zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

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► **Glenn**
Continued from p. 7

District House race. In an article titled, "LGBT Community Aims To Send 'Message' In Race Against Glenn," Mark LaChey, chair of the Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT and Allies Caucus, discussed the commitment and fundraising effort supporting Democratic candidate Joan Brausch, through its Gays Against Gary Glenn project. The long history of Glenn's blatant public assault on LGBT Michiganders, which began in 2000 when he resuscitated the Michigan chapter of the American Family Association, is why Glenn gets all the attention.

Since taking the helm of the organization, Glenn has intentionally misrepresented the LGBT community and used intimidation tactics with local city officials who were considering non-discrimination ordinances protecting LGBT community members. Glenn regularly threatened officials with retaliation at the voting booth and offered funding of any candidates that would run against the LGBT community's "agenda." Glenn attended local city council meetings across the state, threatening them with ballot initiatives if city officials did not stop considering non-discrimination ordinances protecting their local LGBT community.

Long Anti-Gay Crusade

Glenn began his anti-gay crusade in the state 14 years ago. In a press release from 2001 he wrote, "Under homosexual activists' political agenda, our children would face a future in which traditional marriage and families have been legally devalued, while state government – despite the severe threat it poses to personal and public health – not only legally endorses but uses our tax dollars to subsidize deadly homosexual behavior."

Much of what Glenn has said about LGBT people is misleading and factually erroneous. Although social scientists have long disproven the AFA information, Glenn has failed to amend his message.

As the president of Michigan AFA, he promotes the work of its parent organization, which was labeled a hate group in 2005 by the Southern Poverty Law Center. SPLC said the group is known for the "propagation of known falsehoods" and the "demonizing propaganda" against LGBT people. Many

Longtime anti-gay activist Gary Glenn is seeking election to the state house.

of these falsehoods and pseudo-science can be found documented in a Michigan AFA Amicus brief filed in the DeBoer v Snyder case currently under review in the 6th Circuit Federal Court, where the state's marriage equality ruling is expected shortly. Glenn coauthored the Michigan Marriage Act of 2004, which was declared unconstitutional by U.S. Federal Judge Friedman in March.

Glenn also concurred with Peter Sprigg of the SPLC hate group, Family Research Council, when Sprigg said homosexuality should be criminalized.

The AFA bills itself as being on the front lines of the culture war. The AFA Director of Issues Analysis, Bryan Fisher, had this to say: "Homosexuality gave us Adolph Hitler, and homosexuals in the military gave us the Brown Shirts, the Nazi war machine and six million dead Jews."

Fisher has called for an "underground railroad" to usher children away from lesbian and gay parents and has compared making the criminalization of LGBT people with bans on murder, stealing, child molestation and prostitution. Glenn has denounced none of this screed.

Glenn has stated that he will "faithfully provide representation and constituent service to all residents of the 98th District regardless of party affiliation," but has been so active in his public dislike of the LGBT community that it is impossible to take him at his word.

Many in the Midland community are worried about Glenn serving in the Statehouse and the message it sends about the region. In a letter to the editor, Jen Rapanos of Midland submitted her thoughts to the Midland Daily News, "...Glenn and the American Family Association have continued to expand their efforts to condemn and insult individuals in the LGBT community across Michigan while actively working towards denying their rights as human beings. Our community is at a real crossroads – the person who is elected to the state House this November will have far-reaching consequences. Do we sit idly by and allow a person with an inflexible agenda of intolerance change what our community has always exemplified? Regardless of what political party individuals align with, I am hopeful that Midland will send a strong message that nevertheless we are an inclusive community that supports all families, all children and all individuals!"

Homophobic Bigot?

So is Gary Glenn a homophobic bigot? BTL has a hard time concluding otherwise. LaChey offers these thoughts.

"Gary Glenn has a lengthy history of anti-LGBT advocacy across Michigan which cannot be disputed, even by him," LaChey said. "Whether that qualifies Gary Glenn as an 'homophobic bigot' is a matter of personal opinion. But it bears noting that by focusing his rebuke on marriage equality, Gary Glenn chose to ignore the broader and probably more impactful issues of adding LGBT protections to Michigan's non-discrimination and hate crimes statutes. Both of which are generally recognized as being acceptable to the majority of Michiganders, presumably including those residing in Midland and Bay Counties."

On his Facebook page, Glenn warns Midland constituents that Brausch was a local spokesperson for the Occupy Wall Street Movement, a people powered movement that began in 2011 and fights back against big corporations, while being the voice for minimum wage workers. Glenn asked voters to "do their part" and make sure Brausch is not elected into office: "Will complacency among Republicans, conservatives and TEA Party activists allow Democrats to elect the local spokesperson for Occupy Wall Street as our next state representative for Bay and Midland counties?"

For her part, Brausch says she will not run an attack campaign. In a Sept. 24 MLIVE story she said, "I have no intention of attacking Gary. I'm going to spend my campaign telling people who I am. The purpose of the next eight weeks is to let people know who I am and what I'm about. And the things that I want to go to Lansing to do."

Funds being raised for Gays Against Gary Glenn are being directed to Friends of Joan Brausch. There are no plans to use the money to run negative ads about Glenn.

Anyone interested in learning more about Joan Brausch's campaign should check out www.brauschforhouse.com or www.facebook.com/Brauschforhouse. To learn more about Gary Glenn's hateful pursuit of LGBT Michiganders simply search his name in Google where a lengthy list of articles can be found citing his promotion of misinformation, pseudoscience and downright disrespect of gay people.

► **Pastors**
Continued from p. 6

employee in violation of federal law.

"Harris is a funeral home operator with locations in Detroit, Livonia and Garden City. Amiee Stephens had been employed by Harris as a Funeral Director/Embalmer since October 2007 and had always adequately performed the duties of that position," the federal agency explained in a press release announcing the lawsuit. "In 2013, she gave Harris a letter explaining she was undergoing a gender transition from male to female, and would soon start to present (e.g., dress) in appropriate business attire at work, consistent with her gender identity as a woman. Two weeks later, Harris's owner fired Stephens, telling her that what she was 'proposing to do' was unacceptable."

And right in Shirkey's own backyard, Julie Nemecek was terminated from her position at Spring Arbor University when she transitioned. She sued the university in federal court, but settled out of court for an undisclosed sum.

The pastors' message was not accepted by all faith leaders in the state. Rev. D. Alexander Bullock, senior pastor at Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church in Highland Park, said he supports amending the state law.

"It's hard to fathom a world where discrimination was once justified by religion and that's the argument being used to justify bigotry today," he said in a press statement. "My faith and my beliefs tell me to support LGBT protections that align with my values to prevent discrimination, show compassion and allow all to live without judgment."

Swimp said if the amendment is passed, Christians will disobey the law.

"We must be ready to go to jail if we resist," he told those gathered.

"The right side of history is on the side of equality and that's where Michigan will ultimately be," said Lonnie Scott, executive director of Progress Michigan. "Through our own Department of Civil Rights, we know discrimination against the LGBT community not only exists, but that it's pervasive. We also know that discrimination hurts our state and amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act would make us more economically competitive. Equality is not only a moral issue, it's an economic issue. Michigan needs to become a welcoming state."

Report: LGBT Seniors Worry About Retirement

BY BTL STAFF

One in three (32 percent) of LGBT older people is very or extremely concerned about "being lonely and growing old alone," as compared to 19 percent of non-LGBT people.

A new report released Oct. 6, "Out and Visible: The Experiences and Attitudes of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Older Adults, Ages, 45-75," shows high concern among older LGBT people about their ability to fund and care for themselves in retirement. The study found that 42 percent of LGBT older people are "very or extremely concerned" that they will outlive the money they have saved for retirement. Among heterosexuals, only 25 percent share such a concern, the report noted.

The report is based on a national survey of 1,857 LGBT people and 519 non-LGBT people, conducted in March 2014 by Harris Poll on behalf of SAGE.

"This study should compel healthcare and aging providers, as well as leaders in the public and private sectors, to create services, policies, products and institutions that are responsive to a growing, underserved demographic," said Michael Adams, executive director at SAGE, a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting LGBT older people.

The report explores five key areas: healthcare, finance and retirement, support systems, housing and sources of information and was authored by Robert Espinoza, SAGE's Senior Director for Public Policy and Communications.

Among its many findings, Out and Visible found that one in two (51 percent) LGBT older people is very or extremely concerned about "having enough money to live on," as compared to 36 percent of non-LGBT people; one in three (32 percent) of LGBT older people is very or extremely concerned about "being lonely and growing old alone," as compared to 19 percent of non-LGBT people.

"This new SAGE report sheds a much-needed spotlight on the ways in which aging in the LGBT community may bring with it unique vulnerability and challenges both for LGBT seniors and those who care for them," said Gary J. Gates, PhD, Williams Distinguished Scholar at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.

Regarding healthcare, the study shows that 43 percent of LGBT older people who are single and 40 percent of LGBT older people in their 60s and 70s say their healthcare providers don't know their sexual orientations. Two-thirds of transgender adults (65 percent) in the study feel that there will be limited access to healthcare providers as they grow older.

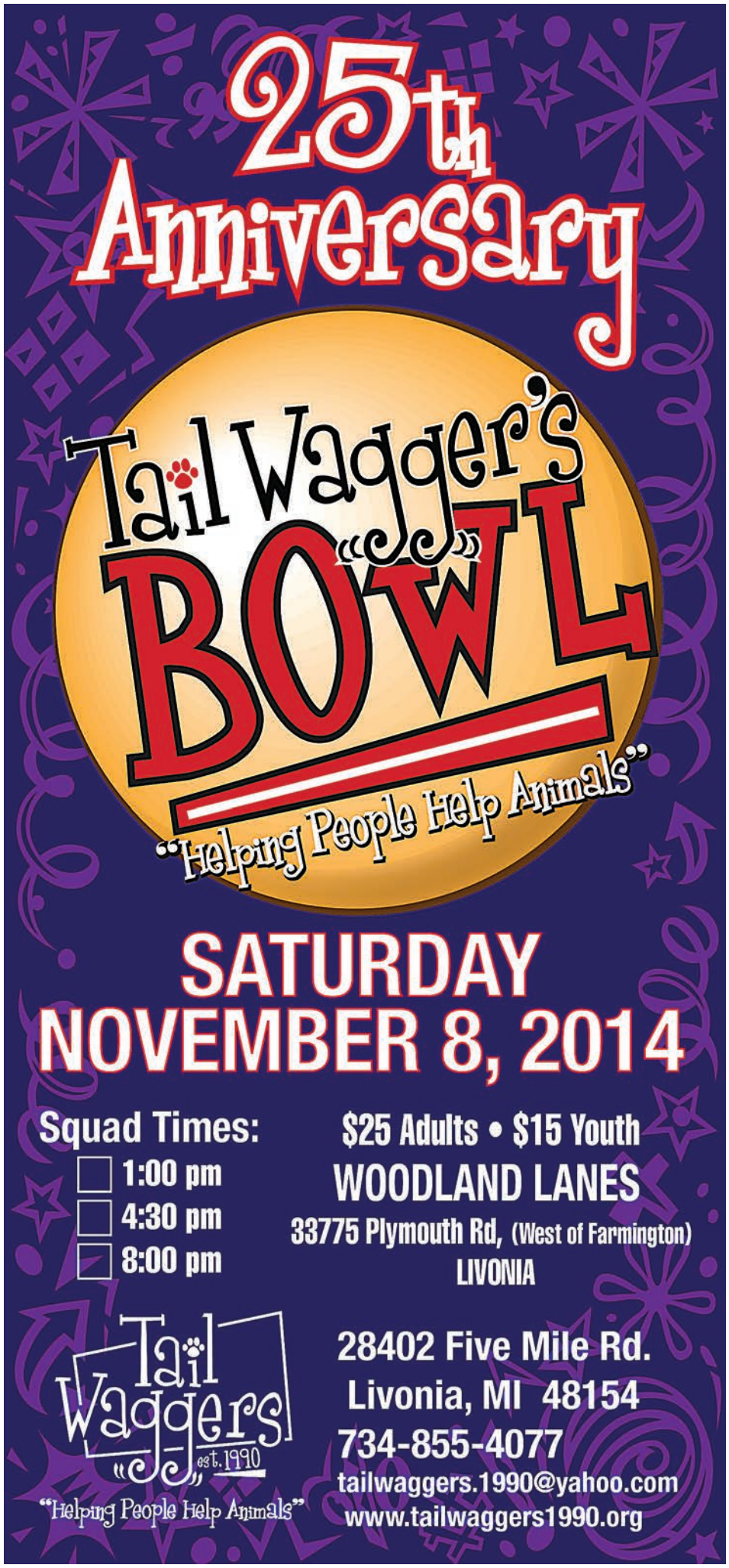
The study also shows that about one in three (34 percent) LGBT older people lives alone (as compared to 21 percent of non-LGBT people), while 40 percent of LGBT older people say that their support networks have become smaller over time (as compared to 27 percent of non-LGBT older people). Of note, African American LGBT adults are three times as likely as white or hispanic LGBT adults to say that people from their churches or faith are part of their support systems (26 percent vs. 8 percent and 8 percent).

"Given the tremendous aging of the population, the report highlights many critical aging related needs of LGBT adults that must be a priority as we move forward serving these diverse communities. It is a must-read for service providers and policy makers alike," noted Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, PhD, Principal Investigator of the National Health, Aging and Sexuality Study, Caring and Aging with Pride over Time and Professor at the University of Washington.

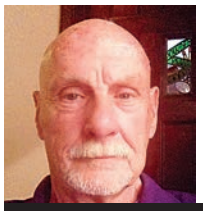
Some Other Key Findings

Finance and Retirement: Forty-two percent of LGBT older people are very or extremely concerned that they will outlive the money they have saved for retirement, as

See LGBT Seniors, page 17



Imagine! If You Can.



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

About a dozen days ago tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow – at my age how can I be sure? – I was gifted with a pair of John Lennon type glasses. Gold rimmed. Sunset orange. Autumn tinted, to be sure.

Reflected in my hand-held vanity mirror, these magic spectacles make me look and feel younger. (To be honest, not an easy thing to do at my gravity-compromised age.)

The two-circle Lennon spectacles came rainbow wrapped. Gay tasteful in a box filled with "magic sequins and let's pretend glitter." Oh, yes! With a note. And, surprise of surprise! Written in cursive writing – rapidly becoming a lost art form – one word: "Imagine!"

Underneath the sequins and glitter is a folded patchouli-scented parchment. A map. Headline: "Things Once Happened at Farmer & Bates. Midnight's the bewitching moment. Follow! In or out of high heels or leather."

And, in small lavender hand lettering, "Count the years backward. Say, the magic word. Put on these glasses. For a minute or two, be glad you were gay way back when."

Let me be honest. I'm a born skeptic. I arrive 15 minutes early – promptness is the courtesy of kings (or queens) as the old saying goes – and I discover to my chagrin two empty, dimly lighted downtown city blocks. Farmer & Bates. Come on, MoTowners, you've got to be kidding!

I stop counting backwards at 50, which it turns out, is just a few seconds before midnight. Looking about for safety's sake, seeing I'm not in harm's way, I – with just a touch of coming out nervousness – put on my Lennon specs, and ... Oh, my God. Mary, you've got to be kidding!

Farmer & Bates is suddenly alive with hundreds of tourists eagerly watching from behind street-lined wooden barricades. There are shouts of approval. Loud applause, as one by one, gaudy costume by glorious costume, drag queen by drama queen arrives, turns, bows, pauses regally for yet another take of in-your-face grandeur.

"You like what you see folks? You bet your sweet straight bippies you do!" chants Lola Lola, pausing grandly before the entrance of one of the intersecting streets of several gay clubs. "This year's trade, next year's competition!" She blows a kiss to the crowd as imaginary light bulbs flash. And out of nowhere, blue side of the moon perhaps, a recorded band lip-synchs "Hello, Dolly."

Even in this imaginary, make believe world of once-a-year royalty on parade, there's got to be a star. Just to be sure it's all for real, I push my Lennon glasses back on my nose. Oh, my. Yes! Of course, it's Hazel Hobbs arriving by top-down, 1960-something red convertible. Her gown, a year in sewing. Sequin by sequin. She radiates class! And chic.

Her muscular Prince Charming holds up a sign. QUEEN OF FARMER & BATES. The crowd – straight and gay – roars its once-a-year allied approval.

I look at my self-winding watch. How quickly time runs down when you're having fun. Or so it seems tonight. Just as I reluctantly turn to go, a parade passes by. Somehow gathered for my imagined benefit. I'm gently touched. Perhaps one final farewell with feeling. They wave in gaily passing ... I nod ...

... Big Red, Jean, Eve, Rusty, The Empress, Miss Bruce, Tall Dick, Virgil, Tabu, Rita Hayworth, Fran, Flo, Uncle Jimmy, Little Mama, Mack, Drano, Sky, Eve Taylor, Che Che, Fran and Wally, Bookie, Fat Jack, Bessie, Billie Hill. Rosie Bonham, Andy, Sam, Chunga, Bobby Johns, Billy & Maurice, Ruthie Ellis ... Hugs! So long! Godspeed! Glitter and be gay!

Charles@pridesource.com

FELLOW LIBERIANS! BEHOLD THE WRATH OF GOD!
THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC, WHICH HAS KILLED THOUSANDS IN OUR COUNTRY, IS GOD'S PUNISHMENT FOR TOLERATING GAYS!
THEN WHY IS THE DEATH TOLL HIGHEST IN COUNTRIES LIKE OURS WHERE HOMOSEXUALITY IS, AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN, ILLEGAL?
JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, GOD ISN'T MUCH OF A DETAILS GUY...
EMAIL: EDITORIALCARTOON@GSYNDICATE.COM
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BTL Editorial

BY JAN STEVENSON

In this election, voter turnout will determine everything. Strong voter turnout could result in a pro-LGBT state government in Michigan.

To Vote Or Not To Vote. What's The Question?

In Michigan, 976,000 people did not vote in 2010 who had voted in 2008. That's like almost a million for all you math whizzes! Just because it wasn't a presidential election and Obama wasn't on the ballot, Michigan voters stayed home, did their hair, wrote their memoirs – whatever was more important that day than exercising their right to vote.

If you are one of those that didn't vote in 2010, we're not here to judge (what were you thinking???). We just want you to take this opportunity to redeem yourself and do the smart, cool thing by voting this time.

To help all those hapless voters out there, BTL did an in-depth study to discover the reasons/excuses why a voter might sit out this election. Let's look at the top five:

Lame Excuse #1 – It doesn't matter if I vote or not:

Tell that to the millions of people who fought and died for the right to vote here and the millions more who live in countries where they can't vote. Try that excuse in Russia where Putin has launched a reign of terror against LGBT people. (By the way, has anyone else noticed that Gary Glenn could win a Putin look-a-like contest?)

Lame Excuse #2 – I don't know who to vote for:

Gotcha covered on that one. BTL's 2014 online Voter Guide has all your answers. Just go to www.MiVoterGuide.com, enter your zip code and your complete ballot will appear. It will show you which candidates are endorsed by BTL and by other LGBT, pro-choice, environmental and labor groups. We also show you which candidates are endorsed by anti-LGBT groups. All you need to know is your zip code – and if you don't know that, then, well, we give up. (No computer access: we have included our 20-page printed version of the Voter Guide in this issue of BTL! Use and pass it on...)

See BTL Editorial, next page

Continued from p. 14

Lame Excuse #3 – I'm busy that day:

Vote absentee. It is really easy. Just download the absentee ballot application at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/AbsentVoterBallot_105377_7.pdf. Check the box that says you'll be away the day of voting – nobody is going to check if you're really home or not. Mail it to your city clerk's office and they will send you a ballot. You can do the whole thing without leaving your La-Z-Boy. This Saturday, Nov. 1, is the last day you can apply for one.

Lame Excuse #4 – I hate politics and the ads drive me nuts:

OK – we'll give you that. The ads are annoying and the negativity is boring. But life is like that. You have to take drivers' education to get a license. You have to file your taxes. You have to call your mom at least once a week. Buck up and vote anyway.

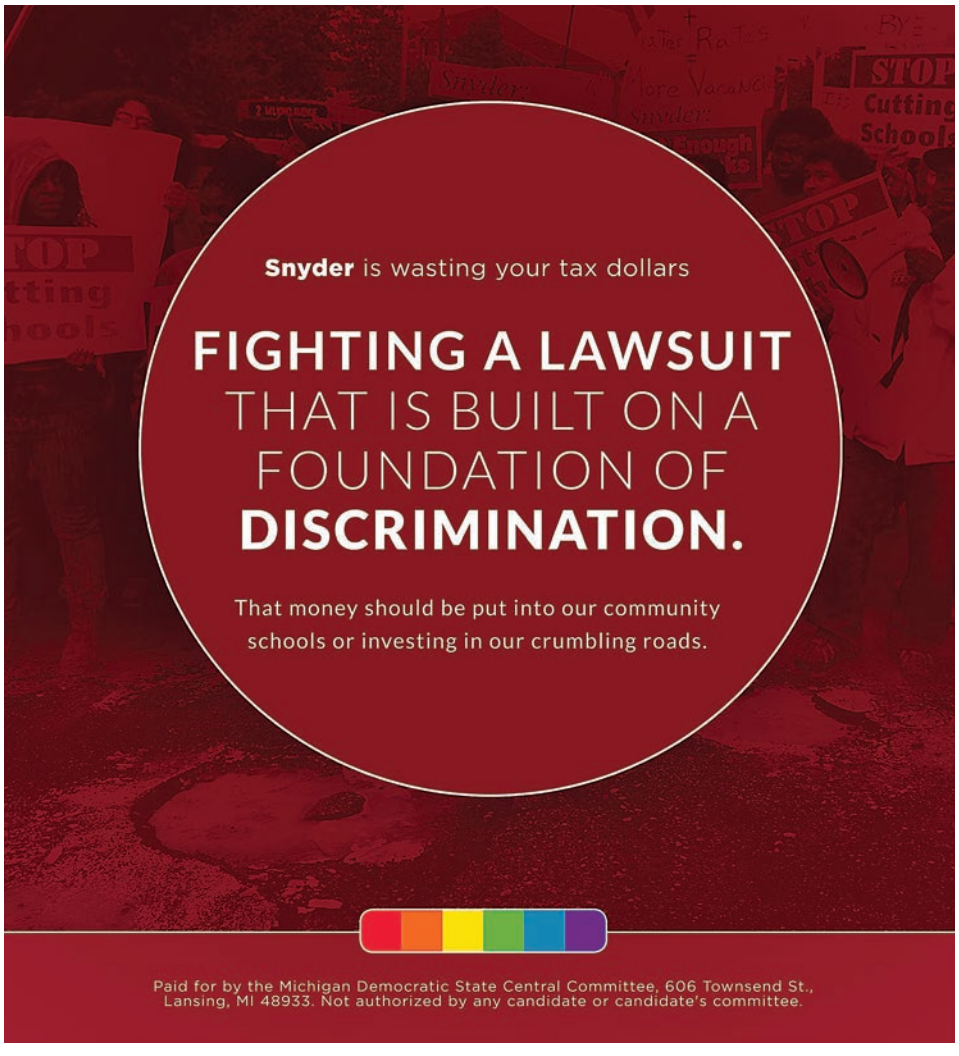
Lame Excuse #5 – Voting makes me nervous; it feels like the SAT test:

My personal school tragedy phobia stems from elementary school picture day. Can we talk? Voting is the easiest test you'll ever take. Just fill in the little ovals next to the person's name. You'll be OK. No one is going to grade you or yell at you for cheating off your neighbor's test. You get an automatic A+ just for voting!

In this election, voter turnout will determine everything. Strong voter turnout could result in a pro-LGBT state government in Michigan. If millions don't bother, then we'll probably get a bunch of scary, right-wing maniacs in office who want to make it really hard to be LGBT in our state.

If you are one of the almost million that didn't vote in the last off-year election, and we still haven't convinced you to vote this time, then call one of our BTL voter counselors. Clearly you just need a good yelling at!

And please remember to direct all equality minded friends, family and co–workers to mivoterguide.com!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Creep of the Week

Steve King

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I don't believe in God. But I have a good enough handle on his discography to know that "Heaven" is one of his greatest hits and that for his fans Heaven is a B.F.D.

Steve King

So when U.S. Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) told The Jefferson Herald on Oct. 22 that he thinks homos aren't going to Heaven, some people were bound to get upset.

The remarks were in response to some rumblings that the Catholic Church was all of a sudden proclaiming that gays are OK-ish (full disclosure: the Catholic Church is saying no such thing).

"I'll just say that what was a sin 2,000 years ago is a sin today," King said, "and people that were condemned to hell 2,000 years ago, I don't expect to meet them should I make it to heaven. So let's stick with that principle."

Mind you, King is talking not just about homos there, he's also talking, according to the Herald, about "people who are divorced or living together without being married." Because "lest ye be judged" and all that.

But back to "that principle" that if it was so 2,000 years ago, it is so today. There are plenty of no-no's in the Bible like mixing fabric, trimming your beard (proof that hipsters are some of the most devout among us), touching dead rabbits, getting a tattoo (yes, even if it's that one part of Corinthians) and working on Sunday.

Another thing that's frowned upon: slander. And Lord knows (because he's gonna find out who's naughty and nice) King has said more than his fair share of shitty things about gays in his lifetime. (Note: he's been Creep of the Week many times over the years.) Not to mention he's not very fond of Muslims or immigrants or ladies who want reproductive rights or anyone who uses critical thinking skills. He is no fan.

Still, it doesn't hurt my feelings that he thinks I'm hell-bound. I already know I'm not going to Heaven. Or to Neverland, or the Island of Sodor, for that matter.

But you don't have to even believe in God (and yes, Mr. King, even some LGBT folks do), to find such a declaration dickish – and definitely arrogant.

"Let me say it isn't up to me to pass that judgment," King told the Herald, "and those who choose a lifestyle that I'll say is not one that's anointed and favored by my faith – or their faith, for that matter – that's between them and God."

While it's easy to laugh off King's comments as the ramblings of a zealot, the man is an elected representative, which means he has actual power that he can use for evil. So when he says gays aren't worthy of heaven, is it any surprise that he also doesn't think gays are worthy of anti-discrimination laws? Of marriage equality? Of protection from violence?

Note to King: when you say that gays go to hell, you're passing judgment. And if you really believed that things for people you disapprove of were "between them and God," you'd never have made the hell comment to begin with.

Here's the thing. While it's easy to laugh off King's comments as the ramblings of a zealot, the man is an elected representative, which means he has actual power that he can use for evil. So when he says gays aren't worthy of heaven, is it any surprise that he also doesn't think gays are worthy of anti-discrimination laws? Of marriage equality? Of protection from violence? Of course not.

He's just another bigot hiding behind religion and the God he claims to believe in so hard also just happens to hate all the same people he does. How convenient.

Federal Gov. To Recognize Same-Sex Married Couples In Six More States

In the latest development following the Supreme Court's decision earlier this month to decline to hear any pending cases regarding same-sex marriage, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced Oct. 25 that the federal government will now recognize same-sex married couples in six new states: Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, North Carolina, West Virginia and Wyoming, stretching the number of states where same-sex marriages are federally recognized to 32 and the District of Columbia.

Last week, Holder issued the following statement with respect to seven other states – Colorado, Indiana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin:

"We will not delay in fulfilling our responsibility to afford every eligible couple, whether same-sex or opposite-sex, the full rights and responsibilities to which they are entitled. With their long-awaited unions, we are slowly drawing closer to full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans nationwide. I am pleased to announce that the federal government will recognize the same-sex marriages now taking place in the affected states, and I have directed lawyers here at the Department of Justice to work with our colleagues at agencies across the Administration to ensure that all applicable federal benefits are extended to those couples as soon as possible. We will not delay in fulfilling our responsibility to afford every eligible couple, whether same-sex or opposite-sex, the full rights and responsibilities to which they are entitled."

Holder's announcement means couples married in these states will now qualify for a range of federal benefits, including those administered by the Social Security Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs.

"With each new state where same-sex marriages are legally recognized, our nation moves closer to achieving of full equality for all Americans," Holder said. "We are acting as quickly as possible with agencies throughout the government to ensure that same-sex married couples in these states receive the fullest array of benefits allowable under federal law."

In addition, the Attorney General also announced that the Department of Justice has determined it can legally recognize marriages performed in Indiana and Wisconsin this past June. These marriages were performed immediately after federal district courts ruled that those states' bans on same-sex marriage were unconstitutional, but subsequent developments created confusion about the status of those marriages. Based on the Attorney General's announcement, however, those couples married during that period will now have their unions recognized by the federal government.

"The steady progress toward LGBT equality we've seen – and celebrated – is important and historic. But there remain too many places in this country where men and women cannot visit their partners in the hospital, or be recognized as the rightful parents of their own adopted children; where people can be discriminated against just because they are gay. Challenges to marriage restrictions are still being actively litigated in courts across the country. And while federal appeals courts have so far been unanimous in finding that bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional, if a disagreement does arise, the Supreme Court may address the question head-on. If that happens, the Justice Department is prepared to file a brief consistent with its past support for marriage equality," Holder issued in a press release last week.

Reminder: Michigan Marriage 'Decision Day' Gatherings To Be Held Throughout State

A reminder as LGBT Michiganders await a ruling from the 6th Circuit, that Michigan For Marriage (www.michiganformarriage.org) has called for citizens across the state to join together on the day the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals issues a ruling in the Michigan marriage case, Snyder v DeBoer.

All locations will gather at 5:30 p.m. in cities including Allegan, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Ferndale, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette and Saginaw. The following locations have been identified as gathering places:

ANN ARBOR: Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct.
DETROIT: Location TBD
FERNDALE: Affirmations Community Center, 290 W. Nine Mile Road
FLINT: Location TBD
GRAND RAPIDS: St. John's UCC, 1934 Bridge St. NW
KALAMAZOO: Bell's Brewery, 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave.
LANSING: Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River
MARQUETTE: Location TBD
Mt.PLEASANT: UU of Central Michigan, 319 S. University Ave.
PLAINWELL: Biggby Otsego, 1307 E. M–89
SAGINAW: Location TBD
TRAVERSE CITY: Cass and Washington Streets, Legion Park

Learn more at www.michiganformarriage.org

► LGBT Seniors

Continued from p. 13

compared to 25 percent of non-LGBT people, and 44 percent of LGBT older people are very or extremely concerned that they will have to work well beyond retirement age in order to have enough money to live on, as compared to 26 percent of non-LGBT people. While most LGBT older people age 60 and older report being retired (70 percent), many of those who are not retired anticipate working, on average, until age 69. Moreover, half of all single LGBT older people believe that they will have to work well beyond retirement age.

Housing: One in eight (13 percent) of LGBT adults and one in four (25 percent) of transgender adults say that they have been discriminated against when searching for housing on the basis of their sexual orientations or gender identities, respectively. Forty-four percent of LGBT older adults are very or extremely interested in living in an affordable LGBT-friendly housing development at some point in the future.

Sources of Information: Both LGBT and non-LBGT older people are most likely to rely on the internet (40 percent vs. 38 percent) and family and friends (40 percent vs. 40 percent)

Among its many findings, Out and Visible found that one in two (51 percent) LGBT older people is very or extremely concerned about "having enough money to live on," as compared to 36 percent of non-LGBT people.

as their primary sources of information on aging. LGBT older women are more likely than non-LGBT older women to look to government sources for information on aging (26 percent vs. 15 percent), while LGBT older men are three times as likely as non-LGBT older men to rely on social media (11 percent vs. 4 percent).

To download the full report, visit http://sageusa.org/resources/outandvisible.cfm.

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► LGBT Elections USA

Continued from p. 5

person elected as a state lieutenant governor. Kerrigan has paid his dues through much work in both the public sector and the Democratic Party. He's currently president of the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund, a group that serves the families of servicemembers who have died in action. But his fate and his campaign signs are tied closely to that of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, who is struggling to overcome a highly-funded Republican bid for the so-called "corner office."

8 New York: Sean Eldridge is making an uphill climb to become a member of the LGBT Congressional Caucus representing New York's Hudson Valley district (No. 19). His opponent is two-term Republican Chris Gibson. Eldridge, the spouse of Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, has been criticized repeatedly for using the couple's personal wealth to fund his campaign, while little mention is made that Gibson's campaign depends primarily on finance, insurance and investment entities. Eldridge is, of course, pro-gay marriage; Gibson supports only civil unions, claiming that marriage is a religious institution. He earned a 76 rating from HRC in the last Congressional session and a zero in his first term. The Eldridge camp released a poll Tuesday showing that he had closed a 28-point lead by Gibson in September to 10 points as of Oct. 19.

9 California: Former State Senator Sheila Kuehl is in a tight race against Bobby Shriver, a nephew of the late President Kennedy, for the District 3 seat on the powerful Los Angeles County Board. Despite her long history with the LGBT community, Kuehl is struggling to keep up with Shriver, who has raised twice the cash she has and won the backing of gay media mogul David Geffen. But she did win the most votes in the June primary. And if elected to the seat, she would become the first openly gay person to serve on the Board.

10 Washington, D.C.: Popular openly gay D.C. Councilman David Catania is mounting a strong campaign to become the capitol city's first openly gay mayor. Catania has been haunted somewhat by the fact that he was a Republican in the heavily Democratic city. But he switched to independent 10 years ago after a long-standing dispute with the Republicans over their anti-gay policies. Catania has earned a good reputation in his 17 years on the council, but his effort may be hurt by the independent campaign of another former Republican council member, Carol Schwartz. And both Catania and Schwartz are up against the African American Democrat Muriel Bowser, who won the endorsement of the local gay Democratic club.

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Smoking: A Critical Health Issue For LGBT Michiganders

'Hands Off Our Body, Love This And Smoke'

BY AJ TRAGER

A recent study by Affirmations Community Center and the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), facilitated eight focus groups with LGBT-identified individuals that helps shed light on tobacco use within the LGBT community.

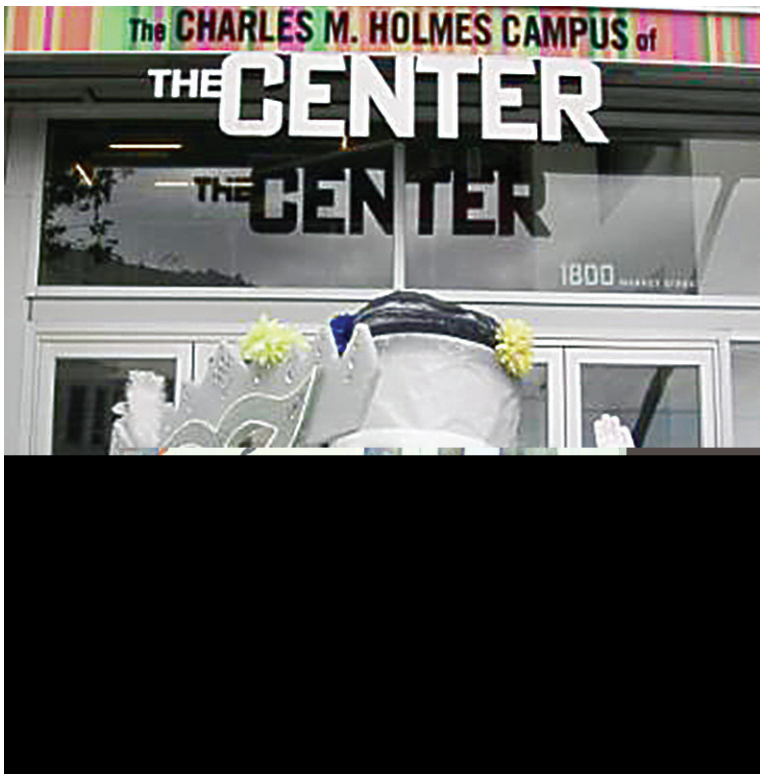
The study looked at three main objectives: behavior and attitudes regarding tobacco use, tobacco use cessation and awareness of tobacco use campaigns and media messages. Participants were asked to evaluate the effectiveness of ads from the Truth Campaign, CDC Tips from Former Smokers and The Bill DeFrank LGBT Center and the LGBT Center Orange County, both based in California. Echoing national findings, most participants in this study initiated tobacco use before the age of 18 and nearly every participant reported a desire to quit or have attempted quitting during their smoking history.

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The American Lung Association reports that gay and bisexual men are 27 to 71 percent more likely than their straight counterparts to be tobacco users and lesbian and bisexual women are 70 to 350 percent more likely than their straight counterparts to use tobacco.

Health

"Lung cancer is 33 percent of every cancer out there. If smoking disappeared from this planet, 33 percent of cancer would disappear as well. And it has more relationship with diabetes, surgeon generals report. Who knows, as we research more, what we might find out," said Director of LGBT HealthLink and an Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor at Boston University School of Public Health, Dr. Scout.

LGBT HealthLink: Network for Health Equity 2013 shows that



The anti-smoking character "CiggyButtz" stands where all other cigarettes must – outside of the nonsmoking San Francisco LGBT Community Center. The Center received an award for leadership in rejecting tobacco industry funding during the opening of the California LBGT Tobacco Education Partnership.

one third of LGBT people smoke cigarettes. That rate is nationally 68 percent higher than the general population. But simultaneously the tobacco companies continually target LGBT communities by donating to LGBT causes and offer an undisclosed amount of financial support to LGBT festivals, bars, media and local organizations.

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Smoking has often been used as a way to deal with stress, especially for lower income families and people with mental health problems. Smoking is a quick and easy way to take the edge off. But health concerns with the inhalant are substantial. There is tightness in the chest, loss of a sense of smell and effects on the metabolism. Micro abrasions in the esophagus can also occur as well a provide as a trigger for depressive episodes or emotions.

"Studies suggest LGBT people have a higher risk for cardiovascular disease and diabetes because of higher tobacco use and stress. Stress alone has so many immunological effects on the body because of endocrine risks. LGBT youth take longer to smoke, but they take to it for longer once they start. It's related to minority stress. They

See Smoking, page 24

'Trans Girl Next Door' Documents Artist's Transition

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Online comics have existed roughly as long as the internet, and as a result of more freedom and accessibility to different groups of people, comics can now cater to everything from sexual fetishes to video game culture. This comes as fortunate news for those who discover Kylie Wu's "Trans Girl Next Door," a comic documenting Wu's own experiences as a transwoman. Transwomen and cis women alike have expressed gratitude at finding a comic that shares their experiences, with raves filling the comic's Facebook page along with hundreds of shares on the comic's Tumblr page.

In the online serial, Wu depicts the highs and lows of transition, including the happiness at being called pretty and the immediate fear when she's forgotten to take her hormones. She decided to start sharing her comics primarily because she enjoys sharing in general, particularly if it's a funny story. "I like to talk a lot and share my opinions, so this is just another way of doing so," Wu shares. "The fact that I didn't know about my gender identity for so long, and the way I kind of found out about it, they were all just so funny and interesting to me, so I kind of just went, 'You guys wouldn't believe what had happened!' to the internet."

Wu, who grew up in southern China ("Man, I miss the food!" she exclaims) and moved to the

Kylie Wu

Washington D.C. metro area in her teens, currently resides in southern California. The 24 year old artist, who admits to sometimes feeling like 14, sometimes 44, but "never my actual age," went to CalArts and studied Character Animation. In addition to her penchant for sharing her thoughts, Wu was inspired to make comics by the ease of reading short pieces. "I really like reading those short and funny web comics on the inter-web, so I think they all inspired me. And also my undiagnosed (but I'm pretty sure I have it) ADHD makes me draw my comics really short," she laughs.

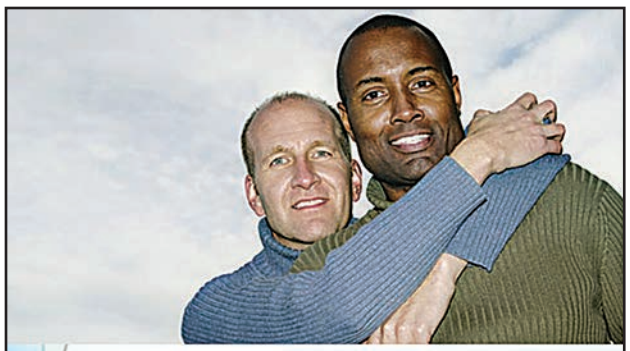
Tumblr, the social networking site, operates with "microblogs" perfect for sharing Wu's comics. The site allows users to "reblog"

BODY & FITNESS

multimedia and other user's blog entries. "I'm super bad with social media, websites, tech," Wu notes. "Tumblr is very easy to use for me."

Though the majority of her comics often include comedic takes on her transition process, such as her girlfriends and even her mother asking for hormones in attempts to grow their breasts, Wu edges into more serious topics. For instance, one comic documents the unfortunate reality of revealing her status to people on dating sites, depicting caricatures of the types of guy she and other transwomen meet,

See Comic, page 25



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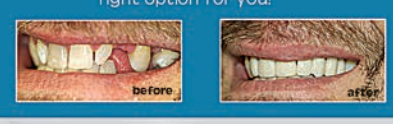

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Cervical Cancer Survey Seeks Lesbian And Bisexual Women

Michael Johnson, a PhD student at Medical University of South Carolina, is seeking input from lesbian and bisexual women on a study involving cervical cancer and screenings. Johnson, who's been involved with LGBT advocacy and research for a number of years, will attempt to use the information from the study to improve healthcare services and programs for lesbian and bisexual women, specifically related to cervical cancer screening services. Participants can help by taking a quick survey at www.CrushCervicalCancer.com or by scheduling a photo interview with Johnson my calling him at 702-301-1874. Women will be compensated for their time. Any further questions or comments can be emailed to johnmsj@musc.edu.

Lifestyle Tips to Reduce Chronic Inflammation

BODY & FITNESS

Millions of Americans endure the pain of chronic inflammation, and even when pain is not apparent, millions more run the risk of serious diseases triggered by chronic inflammation.

"Almost all chronic diseases – from arthritis to heart disease to diabetes to Alzheimer's disease – have one thing in common: destructive, unchecked inflammation," says Dr. Michael A. Smith, host of "Healthy Talk" on RadioMD.com and senior health scientist with Life Extension in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "Certain lifestyle measures and the use of particular supplements, however, can help manage and reduce chronic inflammation."

According to Smith, here's what everyone should know:

Testing

An annual blood test for C-reactive protein can detect potentially high levels of systemic inflammation that may be boosting your risk of a host of age-related diseases. If your C-reactive protein level is over 1.0 milligrams per liter (1.0 mg/L), this likely indicates you have inflammatory activity occurring in your body and may be at increased risk for any number of serious medical conditions – the higher this number the greater the risk.

Natural Extracts

Mainstream medicine offers drugs that typically target a single aspect of acute inflammatory pain, and aren't typically suitable for long-term use due to substantial side effects. Scientists, however, have identified three compounds – curcumin, ginger and turmeric oil – that inhibit multiple underlying factors behind inflammation, safely reducing both chronic pain and long-term disease risk.

"Numerous studies have confirmed that by targeting inflammatory origins, these natural extracts reduce the symptoms, risk profiles and mediating factors of arthritis, cardiovascular disease, cancer and other diseases. And some of these effects are observable in a matter of weeks," says Smith.

While you can find these compounds in certain foods, scientists have discovered a novel way to deliver almost seven times as much of these three extracts to your bloodstream through supplementation.

Healthy Habits

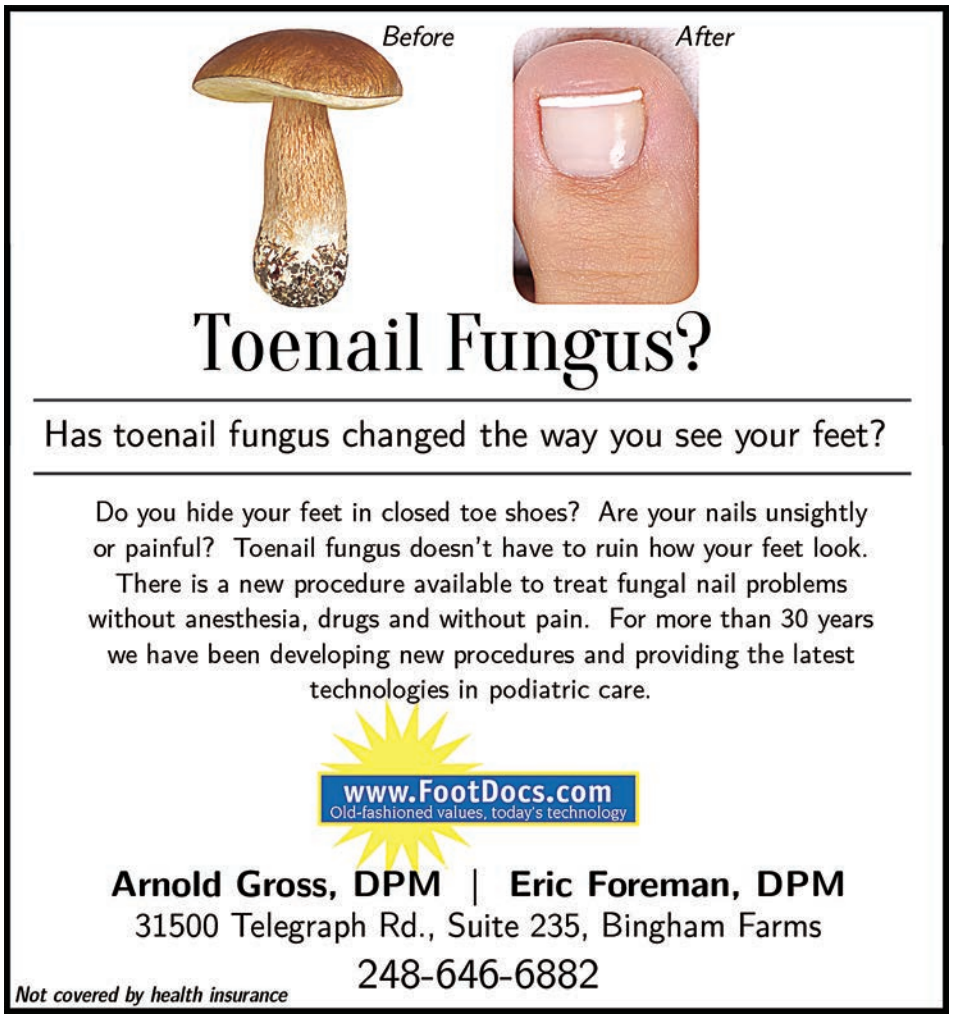
Even light physical activity has proven benefits to reducing inflammation, according to a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Incorporate exercise into your routine, even if that just means a daily walk. And inflammation is one more reason to quit a cigarette habit or avoid secondhand exposure, as it can be a response to smoking, according to Harvard Medical School's Family Health Guide.

Certain foods can promote inflammation. Shy away from too many highly processed foods such as white breads and pasta, and foods high in saturated fat, sugar and trans fat. You don't need to sacrifice flavor, however, by loading up on herbs and spices. They are not only a low-calorie way to flavor your food; certain varieties even have anti-inflammatory properties.

More information about reducing your risk for chronic inflammation can be found at www.lef.org/curcumin or by calling the toll-free number 1-855-820-9479.

To dramatically minimize cellular aging and risk for lethal age-related diseases, many doctors and medical experts urge taking action now to reduce chronic inflammation.

This article from Sitepoint.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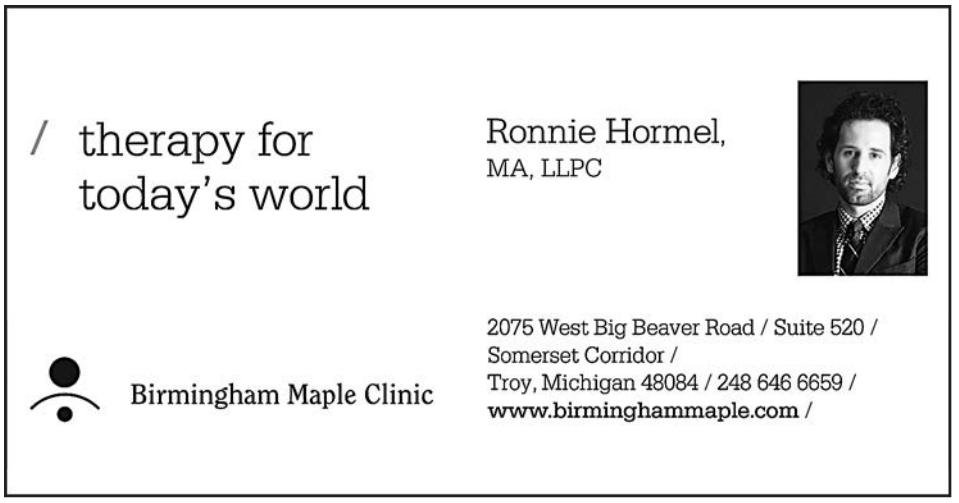
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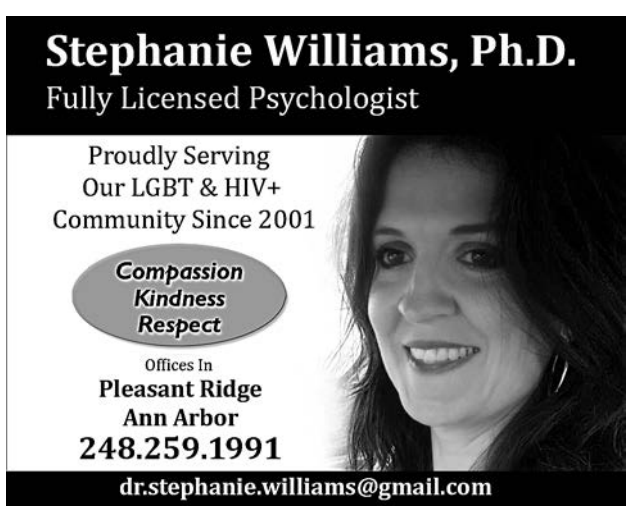

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► **Smoking**
Continued from p. 18

use tobacco as a coping mechanism," said Program Coordinator for National LGBT Cancer Network, Michael Bare. "When people talk about cancer, they talk about it in a care continuum: prevention, screening, diagnoses, treatment and end of life treatments."

Smoking is a socially transmitted disease. Individuals with family members that smoke are significantly more likely to begin smoking at some point in their lifetime. Smoking at bars and night clubs is also a big part of what gets people interested in the drug; they see a group interacting and want to be a part. Smoking has been proven to be an easy social conversation starter.

"We find that lots of people are smoking and pass it along to the next generation. If you are a smoker, try not to smoke with other people. Give your community a gift," Scout said. "You can have the young queer people smoking and they say 'It seems fine, what is the issue? Of course we know it's freaking toxic.'"

Targets For The Tobacco Industry

Tobacco companies and cancer departments look at national surveys to see which demographics are using their products most. The tobacco industry spends $40 million per day exporting its advertisement legacy. And Scout says that up to 60 percent of legislators are taking tobacco money. So why isn't there effective prevention legislation?

"They have targeted us. It has been a little more covert recently. They have ways of advertising in our magazines. Their marketing has become quieter because they capture their information in a gay bar, scan drivers licenses and then you get things sent to your house. A lot of advertisements are tailored and costumed," Scout said.

The Michigan study found that tobacco campaigns were seen as more effective when presented by counterculture or insiders of the LGBT community and was extended to musical acts or celebrity figures that were considered to be part of counterculture. Anti-smoking messages from LGBT identified artists and performers such as Tegan and Sara and RuPaul had a powerful impact.

Participants in the study were less receptive to ads sponsored by governmental agencies and more receptive to ads sponsored by LGBT organizations. They were also more entranced by ads that reflected the diversity of the LGBT community and portrayed individuals in healthy and empowering environments. Highly sexualized images were seen as ineffective and offensive and participants asked for a focus on morbidity rather than morality.

Changing The Conversation

"The first thing I always say is you have to collect the data. The next step is to do it routinely for the state surveillance work," Scout said. "What we know right now is that the information still shows that smoking rates are incredibly high. They are so high that smoking disparities are going to rise for decades to come."

Michigan is doing the data collection, but it is now up to the residents to continue to make the progress. Scout suggests coming together to train "tobacco quit lines" to be LGBT friendly and to have custom advertising on the street, funding disparity networks to work on continuing outreach and teach youth that smoking is not a healthy life choice.

"The more our state puts resources towards this, the more we will understand this is a huge burden for us. For HIV, the money has come down in a lot of different ways. Tobacco should be just as robust. The type of programming we see in every one of our organizations, we should be seeing ads all over the place. We should see that this is a big issue," Scout said.

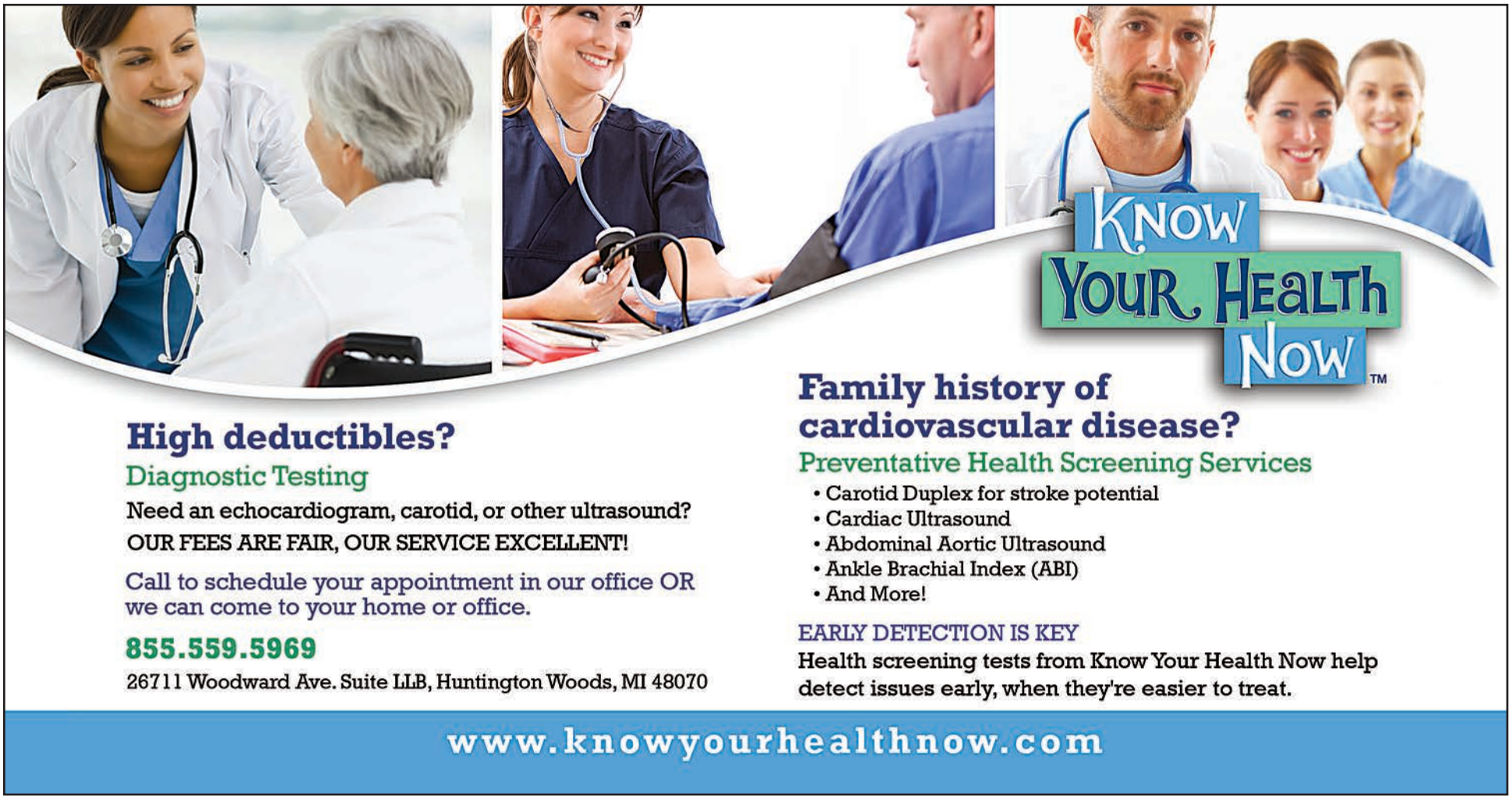
It isn't about vilifying smokers; they are the ones who need the most support. Trying to quit tobacco is extremely difficult. It requires a lot of community support sometimes to help someone get out of the cycle and break the habit.

Earlier this year Scout trained staff at National Jewish Health, the vendor that runs the Michigan Tobacco Quit Line. Scout and staff at Affirmations and MDCH have worked to assess the cultural competency of the Quit Line over the past year and found that the vendor does in fact use the best national practices in collecting sexual orientation and gender identity information in counseling LGBT populations. Affirmations has led the push in the state to advance tobacco prevention programs for LGBT communities by educating state legislators on the need for more funding, promoting the Quit Line and producing studies like the one conducted last year.

In the upcoming years the center will make simple media and tobacco sensation ads based off of recommendations of the focus groups, disseminate the study's findings to the community and policy makers and continue to connect people to tobacco cessation resources.

"We're excited and hopeful as we move into an era were people have more and more access to healthcare and individuals have the support that they need to quit. It gets us a lot a farther than a picture of a tracheotomy on a pack of cigarettes," said Lydia Ahlum Hanson, health and wellness manager at Affirmations.

Call the local quit line at 800-784-8669. A coaching program is available over the phone through the Michigan Tobacco Quitline which will provide a quit guide and materials to help quit smoking. Visit the website at https://michigan.quitlogix.org/.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► ACA
Continued from p. 20

people the health care that they need. The campaign has been at a number of pride events and has been active in the LGBT community meet-ups and professional networks that convene on a monthly basis to connect with people.

The first open enrollment period garnered 272,000 Michiganders who now receive health insurance. This is now the time to renew one's health insurance policy. That could be as easy as getting a note and sending it back, or as Knott suggests, visiting the marketplace to see what kinds of new plans are available. Up to 87 percent of those who enrolled in the last term received financial assistance, and since then, more opportunities have been added for the coverage of transgender health care.

New patient protections have been added such as lifetime limits on coverage, staging out annual limits and forgiveness of preexisting conditions, which guarantees coverage for HIV positive individuals even if they lose their jobs.

In September, Get Covered America partnered with Michigan House Representatives Adam Zemke of Ann Arbor and Phil Phelps of Genesee to lead the outreach effort and target more demographics in the state. In the past year, the campaign has worked with U.S. Rep. John Dingell and U.S. Rep. Sandy Levin to amplify the message to consumers.

The U.S. Department of Human Services found in August that the price for the silver plan for the average consumer was just $85, which brought the cost of coverage down substantially and has made the coverage affordable for consumers. Despite the huge success of the first open enrollment, there are still roughly one million uninsured Michiganders.

"If you have a life changing circumstance, don't make assumptions; go to healthcare.gov or call 800-318-2596 and talk to the support staff," Knott said. "We want to help consumers know that this is the law and that there are many consumer protections and tax credits that make ACA affordable for consumers across the state."

► Comic
Continued from p. 18

such as "the guy who sees you only as a fetish" and "the guy who wants to date you on the sly." "I think I like to throw in some serious topics, such as transgender rights, in my comics from time to time," she notes. "I want to make animation shorts as well, but that would take up a good chunk of time, and right now I need to focus my time on doing work and finding work to pay rent first."

Both serious and funny comics resonate with her audience, and Wu has found them equally beneficial to herself. "People send me messages and tell me my comics have helped them a lot, which is literally the best thing in the world. However, they don't realize that making these comics and putting them out there has also been a very therapeutic thing for me too. I wasn't expecting this therapeutic experience for myself. So I'd say my life has changed, in a sense that I don't feel so alone anymore, and there are people out there who get my sense of humor," she shares. "I'd like to take this opportunity and thank all my readers for their super sweet words and love and support. I love you guys!"

The warm reception to her comics has spurred Wu to make a variety of plans for both her comic and her own future endeavors. "I really want to release an actual comic book next year, collecting all the comics I've made since the start of my transition till a year later, and adding some new and fresh ones in there," says Wu. "I'm kind of old school that way; I like to physically hold a comic book in my hand and read it, like when I'm in the bathroom or something."

She's also interested in doing collaborations and focusing on making more art (like comics, animation and illustrations) to raise awareness of the transgender community and the LGBT community as a whole. "I want people to look at my silly drawings and get disarmed by them," she says. "The next thing they know, 'Woop, Bam,' they understand us and support us."

As a trans girl in transition, bras mean a lot to me
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The point is, life is all about balance; yin & yang; bra & no bra.

transgirlnextdoor.tumblr.com

> *"People send me messages and tell me my comics have helped them a lot, which is literally the best thing in the world. However, they don't realize that by making these comics and putting them out there has also been a very therapeutic thing for me too. I wasn't expecting this therapeutic experience for myself"*
>
> - Kylie Wu

"Trans Girl Next Door" can be read on Tumblr at www.transgirlnextdoor.tumblr.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/transgirlnextdoor. Kylie Wu's online portfolio and blog can be viewed at www.kyliesummerwu.blogspot.com.

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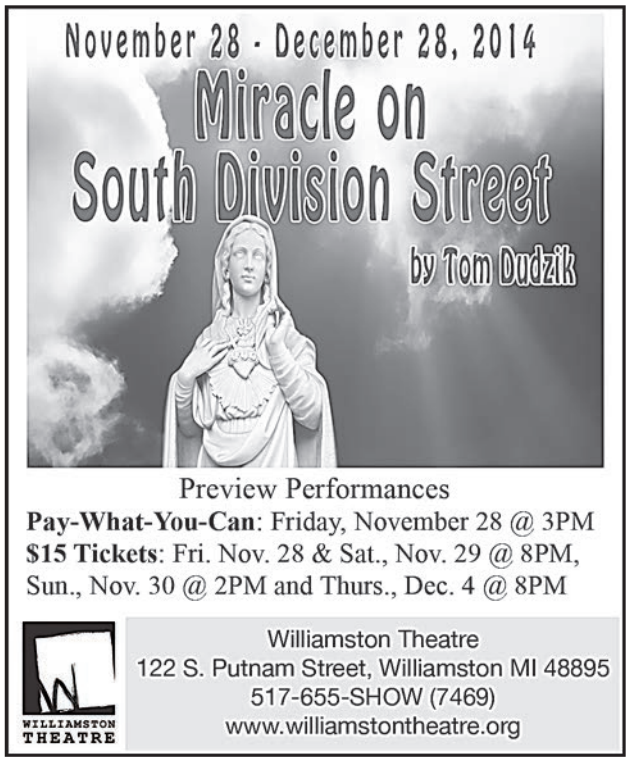
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Photo: HBO

Lisa Kudrow On Valerie's Return, 'Romy And Michele' & 'Superhuman' Gays

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Ten years without our favorite cupcake-wearing gonzo, Valerie Cherish, is 10 years too long. But the wait's over. You were heard.

A decade after "The Comeback" first premiered, the hilariously cringe-y HBO trailblazer that lasted just one season in 2005 – and starred Lisa Kudrow as Val, a D-lister reaching for (everything underneath) the stars – returns to the network Nov. 9 with the "Friends" actress back as our beloved hot mess.

Lisa, you don't know how tempting it is to say "hello" three times to you right now. How often do people quote Valerie in your presence? And how often are they gay men?

(Laughs) Frequently and frequently. You know who the next group is after gay men? College students.

Are you surprised by that?

I was surprised… until I got used to it! But it's fantastic. That's really thrilling, and then it struck me: "Well, of course! They grew up with 'Housewives' of everywhere, and people humiliating themselves on reality TV." When "The Comeback" first came out, I think that gay men were the only ones who were like, "Yes. I understand. I get it. It's great, and I understand." (Laughs)

You know, those are the people I care about the most – the people who really loved the show. That was my only fear after it was all done. Doing it, writing it, shooting it, it was, "Yeah, this is right, this is right." Then afterwards, "Uh oh, what if it's not?"

When it comes to Valerie Cherish, what is it about her exactly that we gay men are so drawn to?

I've been asking myself that too – not cause it's a mystery, but I wonder why. I was watching "Will & Grace" once and there was this hilarious episode where Karen's at a theater and she throws her flask and it hits someone in the head, and there's this joke that gay men wouldn't care because, "Eh, all in a day." (Laughs) Getting, like, smacked with something is "all in a day." So I wonder if that's what it is – because Valerie gets, you know, humiliated – or humiliates herself – all the time. And it's like, "Yeah, well, that's the world."

The other thing that I love about Valerie is,

"All right, someone said something not nice, but you know what, can't use that. Got this other thing I gotta do." She just ignores that that happened and keeps going.

That's what it is too: She perseveres.

Completely perseveres! You can agree with her goal or not, but she's got it and nothing is getting in her way. There's something admirable about that; there just is. Except, you know, she's willing to put up with a lot.

When was it first apparent to you that gays were on board with "The Comeback"? Did you know instantly?

Yeah, pretty much. ("The Comeback" co-creator) Michael Patrick King said, "You understand how this will go: First it's gonna be the gays, then the women, then everyone else."

RuPaul makes a cameo in the pilot episode…

I know. Oh my god – so good!

This means that Valerie could appear as a guest judge on "RuPaul's Drag Race," right?

You know, I've been asked to, but I don't know how Valerie works on a talk show or as a judge. I don't know. I'm thinking about it. I'm trying to figure out how it works. I don't wanna say no!

And you obviously shouldn't. All I'm saying is that I see many opportunities for you to say, "Note to self: I don't need to see *that!*"

(Laughs) But she could say all kinds of – I don't know what we're allowed to (say on "Drag Race"). I mean, she's indelicate and gets things wrong and, you know, I don't know how offensive she's gonna be.

Valerie is surrounded by gays, and so much of your career has been gay adjacent. You did "Happy Endings." You turned Meryl Streep into a gay conversion therapist for "Web Therapy." And then, of course, there's "The Comeback." Are you as immersed in the gay community as your career would lead us to believe?

Yes and no. The people I work with are gay. I don't know who I'm going to offend by leaving them out, but I need to say that I think gay men are superior beings in my mind. I do believe that.

I would love to hear why.

It's all so tricky. I studied biology and the brains are anatomically different. They just are. There's a stronger connection with the corpus callosum (in gay men). The two sides of the brain communicate better than a straight man's, and I think that has to be really important. They're not women – they're still men – and women also have thicker corpus callosums, so I think it's the combination of those qualities that makes them like a superhuman to me.

Even more apparent during this season of "The Comeback" is the inherent commentary on celebrity culture and age and gender discrimination. When it comes to ageism in the industry – the fact that there are so many talented older actresses not getting starring roles – what do you hope "The Comeback" accomplishes in spotlighting that issue?

I don't know what to say about that. It's something that just is. I think it's gonna be a much longer process. I'm really not a revolutionary-type personality, you know what I mean? I'm not the activist type, but mmm, my god. I'm really bad at this – communicating this stuff. But we still… we still… (Laughs) Women still have a different place in our society, and it's changing slowly but it's still real slow. Because we're so interested in the male audience more than the female audience, the requirement for women in entertainment is that she turn men on. That really hasn't changed much.

That's particularly the focus of the third episode when – spoiler alert – you simulate oral sex on Seth Rogen.

Right! And then you have the two (completely naked) girls standing there for an uncomfortably long time.

Did it feel uncomfortable for you on set?

Well, the girls seemed OK. But, you know, (it's) always just about making sure everyone's being treated with respect, right?

Have you ever experienced the ageism that Val experiences in your own career? Roles you didn't get because of your age?

Not that I know of. I don't know how to put it, but one of my biggest failings is that I accept things the way they are, and then I just try to adapt. I think it's incredible people who say, "No, no. It doesn't have to be this way, though." It's like, "Oh. Well, wow."

Have you worked with someone like Valerie Cherish?

Yes! These people exist. There were people who were like, "Oh, I think I know who this is," and the answer is, "You don't know who this is, because this isn't one person."

Did you have anyone in mind when you created the character?

No, not one person, because it's an amalgam of people – men and women.

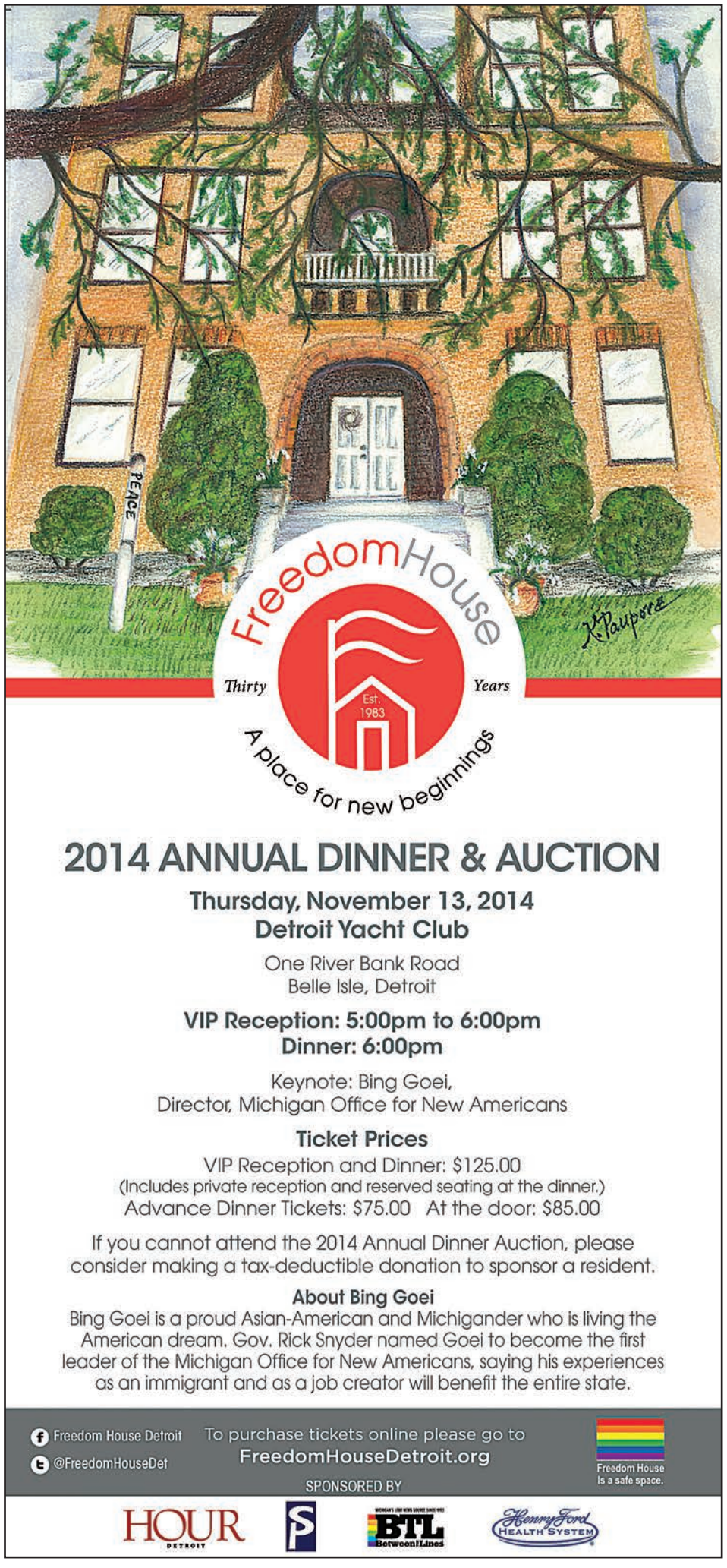
What do you have in common with Val?

Well, a lot. I think I do have a thing where, if something negative is happening and it's not serving me, then I'm really not gonna let it in and address it because I gotta keep going. If something's happening that's negative, I try to think, "What's OK about this?" so that I don't get distracted by having to do something about that.

Which is exactly a Val characteristic.

Right. And then it's just exaggerated and

See Comeback, page 28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► **Comeback**
Continued from p. 27

heightened in her.

Could you ever imagine turning your own life into a reality show?

No. (Laughs) The closest I came was doing an episode of "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Do you watch reality shows? Are you a fan at all?

I do watch them. They're so fascinating to me. I like "Top Chef," "Project Runway" – still like that. I watch "America's Next Top Model." And then I watch the "Housewives." I watch certain "Housewives" of places.

I am fascinated with the level of criticism young people can handle. I could not have handled it. I think I would've shriveled up in a ball, so on one level I really admire the Teflon part of them that's able to say, "OK. Thank you. Good note." I constantly try to work against that judgmental part of me, and it's not (easy), especially when it's the judgmental part that gives you your sense of humor.

And all this is research for "The Comeback," of course.

Well, yeah, I can't really say that. (Laughs) It's not research, but I am fascinated. I also do have this other theory that, thanks to those "Housewives," we finally do have a point of reference for how women behave. We need to. It can't just be reasonable, good behavior, because that's how we depict the downtrodden so that no one thinks we're sexist or racist, so you end up with all of these subgroups in our society that have to be dull. They're not allowed to have any flaws, otherwise whoever wrote (that depiction) is accused of having bad feelings about them. To me, that's when things are finally OK – when everyone's allowed to have flaws depicted in entertainment.

Mira Sorvino recently brought up a sequel to "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion." What are your thoughts on one, and do you think it'll happen at this point?

I have no idea. Robin Schiff wrote and produced "Romy and Michele," and we all did get together years ago with a great idea: "Romy and Michele Get Married." And yeah, Disney wasn't interested in it at the time. Now, I don't know what it would be. My worry is, you know, wouldn't it involve plastic surgery? (Laughs)

With a sequel like "Romy and Michele Get Married," does that mean they end up being lesbian lovers because of the pact they made to marry each other in the original?

No, they're not, but that's always the other meaning. Because that's the relationship. That is *the* relationship. But I think by now it'd have to be "Romy and Michele Get Divorced… Again."

In the spirit of the meta show a la "The Comeback," if you could play a version of yourself playing Phoebe from "Friends" years later, what would that character be like?

Well, I did play a version of myself playing Phoebe. (Laughs) Phoebe is a version of myself. Valerie's a version. And Fiona Wallice (of "Web Therapy") is a version. And, well, Michele Weinberger is *not* a version, I have to say. I don't know. I have a feeling if Phoebe had to be revisited, she'd be closer to me.

Why do you say that?

I don't know about you, but I don't wanna see a woman my age saying "floopy," trying to be cute. No, uh-uh. It's too Baby Jane.

‘Motown The Musical’ Comes To Motown The City

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

Clifton Oliver as Berry Gordy abd Allison Semmes as Diana Ross Motown the Musical First National Tour. Photo: Broadway in Detroit

The gala opening night of “Motown the Musical” at the Fisher Theatre found Berry Gordy, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and other luminaries watching themselves being portrayed onstage. Afterwards all three spoke to the audience, and Wonder even sang a bit of “I Wish.” It was a thrill for first-nighters, a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

But what about second-nighters, third-nighters and everyone else who catches the touring version of Gordy’s autobiographical musical (still running on Broadway)? Well, prepare to be wowed by reincarnations of the Temptations, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Jackie Wilson, Stevie Wonder, the Four Tops, Martha and the Vandellas and *ohmigod*, young Reed L. Shannon as 10-year-old Michael Jackson fronting the Jackson 5 in their prime. (Note: Shannon alternates with Leon Outlaw, Jr., no doubt similarly impressive.)

Essentially, “Motown the Musical” is a corporate history with a soundtrack. But what a soundtrack! Come to think of it, what a corporate history: In 1959 Detroit songwriter Berry Gordy Jr. borrows $800 from his family to launch his own record company in a house he calls Hitsville USA and more or less changes history.

Gordy literally changes history in “Motown the Musical,” implying that the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led to the Detroit riots (the riots took place in 1967, the assassination in 1968).

As a playwright, Gordy is a helluva songwriter. Character development is minimal. In terms of story, his accounts of his work with artists like Smokey Robinson, the Supremes and Marvin Gaye are intriguing, while other artists like Stevie Wonder and the Jackson 5 get a few sentences but plenty of time to perform, and still others – among them, the Temptations, Gladys Knight, the Four Tops – receive time to perform but no story. Much of the narrative is devoted to Gordy’s long romantic relationship with Diana Ross, none of it to his marriages, or hers.

REVIEW

Motown the Musical

Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit

Performs Tuesday-Sunday through Nov. 16:

8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (no performance Friday, Oct. 31)

2 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

7:30 p.m. Sunday

1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30

Open Captioned performance on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

3 hours

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But hey, this is Gordy’s story, as told by Gordy in a show produced by Gordy (and Kevin McCollum and Doug Morris), and he could have called it “Song of Myself” if he’d felt like it and if Walt Whitman hadn’t stolen the title.

Not that it matters a whole lot. Great Motown music is the star of the show: “My Girl,” “My Guy,” “ABC,” “What’s Going On,” “Ball of Confusion,” “Baby Love,” “Shop Around”…the program lists almost 60, and many are necessarily performed in condensed versions or fragments. The show ran three hours on opening night, largely because a long intermission allowed all the VIPs to mingle. A more likely running time would be two hours, 45 minutes.

The songs aren’t the only stars. Clifton Oliver is charismatic as Gordy, and unlike the man himself, “Motown’s” Gordy sings. Allison Semmes captures young Diana Ross in voice and affect. Nicholas Christopher is spot-on as Smokey Robinson, as is Rashad Naylor in a brief turn as Jackie Wilson. Fine, too, are Elijah Ahmad Lewis as Stevie Wonder and Jaran Muse as Marvin Gaye.

A large ensemble does topnotch work as an assortment of performers. Director Charles Randolph-Wright (he also directed the show on Broadway) oversees a striking re-creation of the golden age of Motown, with spot-on vintage choreography by Patricia Wilcox and Warren Adams; clean, clear and not earsplitting sound by Peter Hylenski (thank you, thank you, thank you; Motown was never about volume), dazzling costumes by Esosa and snappy scenic design by David Korins, and complementary, protean lighting by Natasha Katz.

If you missed the glory days of Motown or want to relive them, now you can, and in a theater a 10-minute walk from where it all happened. Chances like these don’t come along very often.

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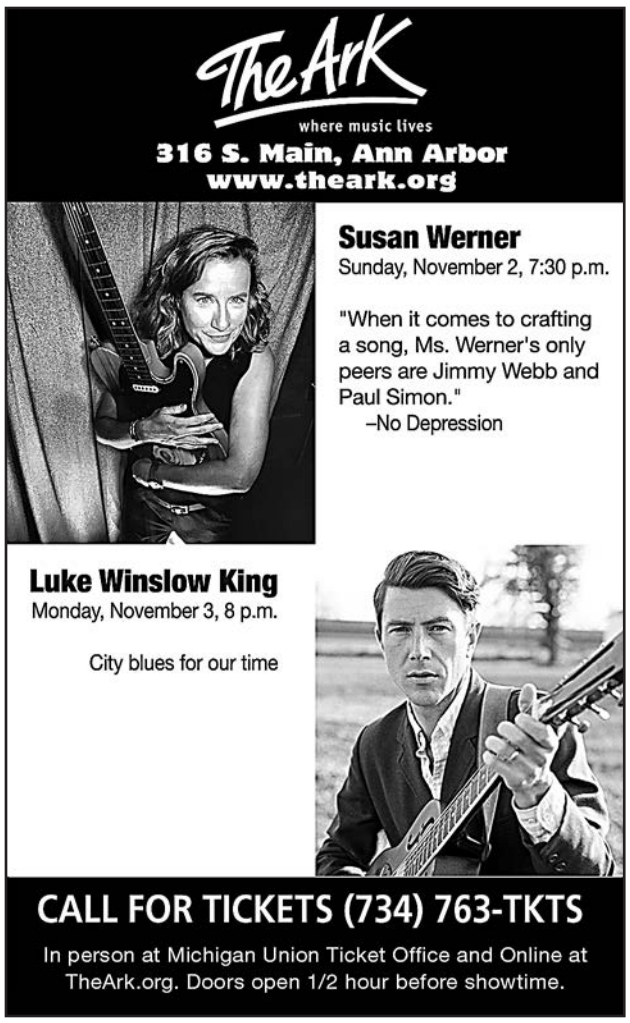

The Ark
where music lives
316 S. Main, Ann Arbor
www.theark.org
Susan Werner
Sunday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
"When it comes to crafting a song, Ms. Werner's only peers are Jimmy Webb and Paul Simon."
–No Depression
Luke Winslow King
Monday, November 3, 8 p.m.
City blues for our time
CALL FOR TICKETS (734) 763-TKTS
In person at Michigan Union Ticket Office and Online at TheArk.org. Doors open 1/2 hour before showtime.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Oct. 30

2014 MPAW-MAACO Animal Welfare Conference The Great Lakes Region's premier educational and networking event for animal sheltering and veterinary professionals, animal control agencies, rescue groups and individuals interested in saving more animal lives. Michigan Partnership for Animal Welfare, 6800 E. Soaring Eagle Blvd., **Mt. Pleasant.** Mpaw.org

Friday, Oct. 31

Wellness Clinic New center offers spaying, neutering and more. Tail Waggers 1990, 28402 Five Mile Road, **Livonia.** Tailwaggers1990.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p. m. Film: Molly's Girl - When emotionally volatile Molly meets Mercedes, a gay rights activist, a one-night stand leads them down an unexpected path Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Saturday, Nov. 1

LGBTQ-Friendly Yoga Class Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., **Lansing.** Justbyoga.com

The Night of The Day of The Dead Show! 9 p. m. 18+. Cover: $6. Static Network, 2932 Caniff, **Hamtramck.** 313-874-0909. info@staticrecords.com Paychecks lounge.com

Sunday, Nov. 2

Michigan Atheists Meeting 2 p. m. Please join us at our Sunday Gathering in our private room for friendship, food, announcements and reports. Michigan Atheists, 39550 Ann Arbor Road, **Plymouth Township.** 734-459-0880. Michiganatheists.org

Regardless Of (Narcotics Anonymous Meeting) 7 p. m. This is a closed meeting for addicts or those who think they might have a drug problem. This may be a Common Needs meeting, but any addict seeking recovery is welcome! The time has come that any addict seeking recovery in the Washtenaw area can find it. The more diverse the fellowship, the more members we are able to reach! The goal is to make the message of recovery available to all so that any addict can come to NA and feel that they too belong in this fellowship! Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Drag Queen Addictions 10:30 p. m. LaBelle and Aretha Franklin impersonator April Summers brings her big personality to the stage as she introduces a lineup of drag stars. 18+. Inuendo Nightclub, Corner of Nevada St. and Southbound I-75, **Detroit.** https:// facebook.com/inuendo.nightclub?rf=118209121607517

Editor's Pick

Do a downward dog or a warrior pose every Saturday with Just B Yoga's LGBTQ-friendly classes. The Lansing-based yoga studio is donation based and community driven, meaning they take only donations as forms of payment.

Just B Yoga's mission statement notes that they represent, "diversity of shape, size, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identification and/or expression, and is committed to making programs accessible and affordable to all." The inclusive yoga studio – which also offers salsa dancing – also follows a sustainable practice that is environmentally friendly.

The LGBTQ-friendly yoga classes are offered every Saturday at 3:30 p.m. Just B Yoga is located at 106 Island Ave., Lansing. For more information, visit www.justbyoga.com.

Monday, Nov. 3

Center Open - Drop In 7 p. m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Tuesday, Nov. 4

Aff Action Night 6 p. m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p. m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Teens Using Drugs: What to Know and What To Do 7:30 p. m. A FREE, ongoing, two-part series designed to help participants learn to understand, identify and address adolescent alcohol/other drug problems. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliot Dr., **Ypsilanti.** 734-485-8725. info@dawnfarm.org Dawnfarm.org

Wednesday, Nov. 5

67th Annual Humanitarian Tribute Luncheon 12 p. m. Honorees: Linda D. Forte, Terry A. Barclay, ALPACT. Tickets: $150+. Michigan Roundtable, 1777 Third St., **Detroit.** 313-870-1500, ext. 1. Miroundtable.org

HIV Testing 6 p. m. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. http:// goaffirmations.org/events/event_details. asp?id=430531

Thursday, Nov. 6

Raising the Steaks: Dining Out at Logan's Roadhouse 4 p. m. Support Affirmations by dining out at any of seven locations in metro-Detroit every First Thursday. Affirmations, **Various.** Goaffirmations.org

Relationship Skills Class 6 p. m. A series for LGBTQ people and their friends and loved ones. Topics include: exploring personal and cultural relationships, values, arguments and making agreements, accountability and building community connections. Tickets: $5-35. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Family & Friends 7 p. m. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Join us as we offer support, share our experiences, and learn about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied community. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield.** 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

Editor's Pick

Cranbrook Art Museum's annual event, Crandemonium, comes to the museum this weekend. This year's event bills itself as "An Evening Where Anything Is Possible."

Many amazing experiences can be expected at this year's event; last year's evening involved a fire performer, aerial yoga and roller derby girls. All proceeds from the event will benefit the museum's education programs, which work to bring Cranbrook's innovation and creativity to local undeserved areas.

Crandemonium will begin at 7 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 1 at Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Ticket options range from $125 to $3,500 for a table of six. For more information, call 248-645-3579 or visit www.cranbrookart.edu/museum/crandemonium.html.

Red Robot 7 p. m. Ageplay group. Every first Thursday. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Beethoven's Fifth". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 31 - Nov. 2. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "MasterWorks 3: Choral Fantasy" Guest Conductor: Dr. David Rayl. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 8 p. m. Nov. 1. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

Concerts

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Amon Amarth" With Sabaton and Skeletonwitch. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Oct. 31. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Acorn Theater "Karen Mason". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p. m. Nov. 1. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Ark "Luke Winslow King" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p. m. Nov. 3. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Michael McDermott" Tickets: $0-15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p. m. Oct. 30. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Susan Werner" Tickets: $20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p. m. Nov. 2. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "The Verve Pipe" Tickets: $25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p. m.

Nov. 1. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "David Bazan & The Passenger String Quartet" Tickets: $20+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 5. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Whiting "Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir" Tickets: $20. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p. m. Nov. 1. 810-237-7333. Thewhiting.com

The Whiting "Black Violin" Classically trained violinists Wilner "Wil B" Baptiste and Kevin "Kev Marcus" Sylvester present a fresh fusion of classical music, rock, R&B, pop and hip-hop with their band BLACK VIOLIN. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7:30 p. m. Oct. 30. 810-237-8689. Thewhiting.com

Dance

Detroit Opera House "Giselle" Houston Ballet. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 1 - Nov. 2. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

Wharton Center "Eisenhower Dance: The Light Show" Tickets: $15-20. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p. m. Oct. 30. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

Other

Farmington Players "Musical Theater Master Class Workshop with Seth Rudetsky" Tickets: $25+. Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 12 p. m. Nov. 2. 248-473-1856. Farmingtonplayers.org

Ferndale Public Library "Start HERE Saturdays" Start HERE Saturdays will be hosted at the Ferndale Public Library after-hours on the first Saturday of the month. Two local bands each playing a full set of music for an all-ages audience. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale. Oct. 4 - Feb. 7. 248-547-6001. Facebook.com/FerndalePublicLibrary

Flint Institute of Arts "Call of Duty Ghosts: 2v2 Tournament" Tickets: $20. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p. m. Oct. 30. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Shows

Berman Center for the Performing Arts "Chita Rivera with Seth Rudetsky" Tickets: $60-65. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7 p. m. Nov. 2. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org=

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Blithe Spirit $8-15. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through Nov. 2. 517-482-5700. Riverwalktheatre.com

BUG $15. Monster Box Theatre, 2529 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford. Through Oct. 31. 248-872-7344. monsterboxtheatre.com/

Haunted Theatre: 2730 $5-8. Matrix Teen Company at Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Oct. 30 - 31. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

Other Desert Cities $18-22. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Oct. 31 - Nov. 16. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Parade $15-18. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. Nov. 6 - 16. peppermintcreek.org

Songs for a New World $20. Birmingham Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Through Nov. 9. 248-644-2075. birminghamvillageplayers.com

The Addams Family $10-15. Center Stage Jackson at Baughman Theatre at Potter Center on the campus of Jackson College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Nov. 2. centerstagejackson.org

The Frog Prince and The Truly Remarkable Puss-in-Boots $5-7. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Nov. 7 - 15. 517-333-2580 ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

Twelfth Night $11-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Walgreens Drama Center at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave, Ann Arbor. Oct. 30 - Nov. 2. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

College/University Theater

A Room With a View $5-15. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Nov. 7 - 16. 517-483-1488. lcc.edu/showinfo

Cymbeline $5-20. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre located inside The Gilmour Theatre Complex, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Through Nov. 2. 269-387-6222. Wmutheatre.com

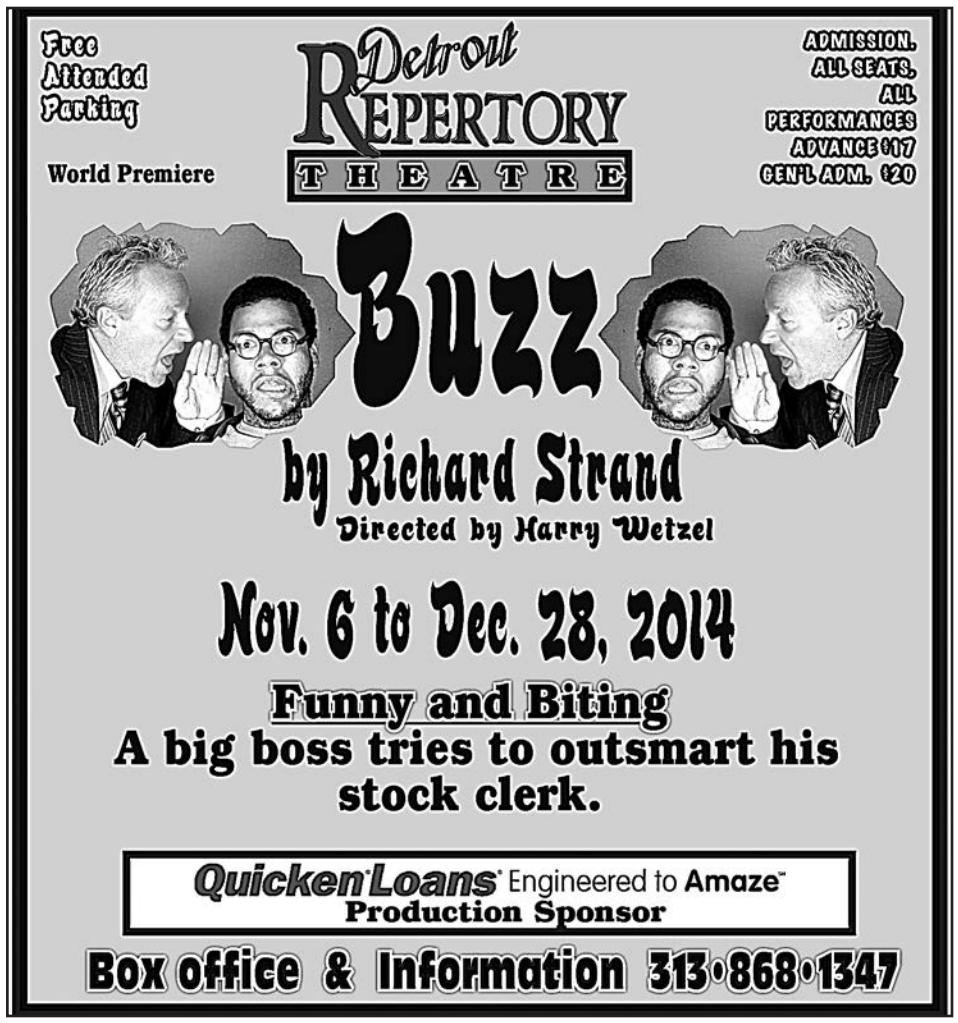
Professional

9 x Nourished $12-16. Flint Youth Theatre at Flint Farmers' Market, 300 E. First St., Flint. Through Nov. 2. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Alice $30-75. Nerve at Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest Dr., Ferndale. Through Oct. 31. 248-506-4335. http://gonerve.com

Annapurna $12-42. The Purple Rose

See Happenings, page 33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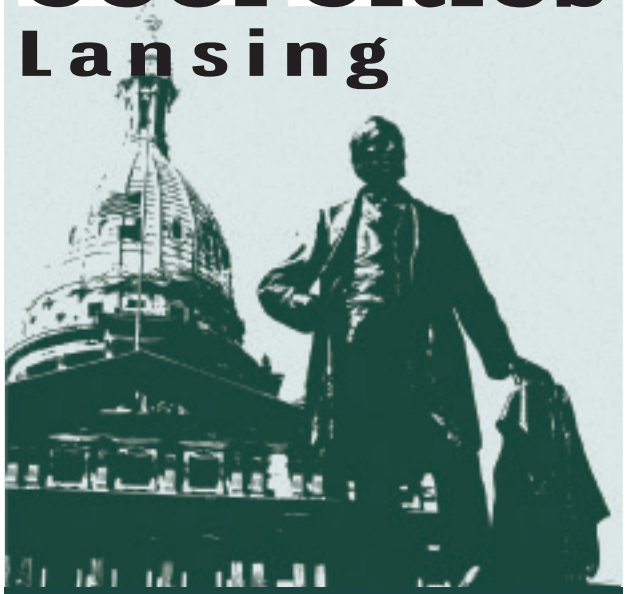
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Cris Williamson Headlines Women In The Arts Festival

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The 29th Annual Women in the Arts Festival brings its two-day community festival to East Lansing this November. Known for its celebration of regional women artists, the event will run Nov. 14-15 and feature iconic songwriter Cris Williamson. Williamson will perform at 8 p.m. on the Friday Night Stage, in addition to hosting a workshop on Saturday.

Williamson has been influential in the indie music scene since her first album in 1975, "The Changer and the Changed." She recorded the album on her own Olivia Records, the first woman-owned, woman-focused recording company. As a result of the former schoolteacher's musical contributions, the genre of "women's music" was born. "The Changer and the Changed" is currently still one of the best-selling independent releases of all time. With her 30-plus full albums of music, Williamson – once described as "hearing honey dripped on a cello" by Bonnie Raitt – will bring songs from her 2013 release "Pray Tell: Songs of the Soul." She'll also host a Saturday workshop.

Other workshops, held throughout the day beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, include "Abolishing Negative Self-Talk and Creating Self-Love," "Out of the Box and Into the Moment; One Family's Journey," "Introduction to Shamanism: Path of Empowerment and Healing," and more.

Other performers include songwriter Abigail Stauffer, all-girl string band Nobody's Darlin, Sistrum: Lansing Women's Chorus and a story hour. The story hour, billed as "personal herstory that has never been so entertaining," features Laurie Hollinger, Tari Muniz and their friends sharing off-the-cuff storytelling.

The festival also offers a huge artist market, hosting 30 booths of women-created and -inspired art. Local works and services for sale include paintings, photography, jewelry, clothing, sculpture, pottery, knitted items, edible treats, books, music and even massages. The market will run from 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday.

An open mic, delicious food from the Sistrum Cafe, film screenings and a silent auction round out the festival roster of events.

The 29th Annual Women in the Arts Festival will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14 and 9 a.m. Nov. 15, with stage performances running from 1-6 p.m. The festival will be held at Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. Tickets range from $5-20. For more information, visit www.witafestival.com.

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► Happenings

Continued from p. 31

Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 20. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Are You There God? It's Me, Carrie $10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Nov. 3. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

Boogah and Hoogah $7.50-20. Children's Theatre of Michigan at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 4 p.m. Nov. 2. 313-887-8500. musichall.org

Buzz $17-20; $75 Black Tie Event on Nov. 15. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Nov. 6 - Dec. 28. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Camelot $54-59. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Nov. 1 - 2. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 877-636-3320. comedysportzdetroit.com

Driving Miss Daisy $30. Performance Network Theatre at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 31 - Nov. 2. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Enter Laughing $41-48. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road., West Bloomfield. Through Nov. 16. 248-788-2900. jettheatre.org

Girls Night: The Musical $38. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 6 - 9. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Harry the Dirty Dog $10. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. Nov. 7. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Motown the Musical $39-95. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Nov. 16. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Nunsense Jamboree $8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Avenue, Alpena. Oct. 30 - Nov. 16. 989-354-2267. thunderbaytheatre.com

Once $30+. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NE, Grand Rapids. Nov. 4 - 9. 1-800-745-3000. broadwaygrandrapids.com

Romeo and Juliet $10-31. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Dec. 13. 313-577-2972. finearts.wayne.edu

Sister Act $35-58. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Nov. 1. 269-387-2300. millerauditorium.com

Superposition $22. University Musical Society at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 31 - Nov. 1. 734-764-2538. ums.org

Swingtime $43-59. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

The Crucible $12-15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Through Nov. 2. 269-781-2700. greatescapestagecompany.com

The Dogman Prophecies $10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Oct. 31 - Nov. 8. 313-365-4948. Planetant.com

The Tiger Who Came to Tea $15. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Nov. 1 - 9. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Turtle Island $5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Nov. 1 - 30. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

White People $15. Puzzle Piece Theatre at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through Nov. 9. puzzlestage.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Cranbrook Goes to the Movies: Films and Their Objects, 1925-1975". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Feb. 28. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "Guest of Honor: Monet's Waterlily Pond, Green Harmony". Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 1 - Jan. 4. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Labyrinth" The circuitous life of a miniaturist. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Nov. 1 - Jan. 4. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History "Menagerie, or Artwork Not About Love". Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, 480 W. Hancock, Detroit. Oct. 24 - Dec. 12. 313-577-2423. Wayne.edu

MDGS "The Michigan Depression Glass Society 42nd Annual Show" Featuring nearly two-dozen dealers. Will also offer glass repair. Free parking. Donation: $5. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Nov. 1 - Nov. 2. Michigandepressionglass.com

Michigan State University Museum "Evolution in Action" New exhibit explores evolution of biological systems and technologies - evolution in living things, and also in computers and engineering. A new exhibit, "50,000" reveals an ongoing experiment where scientists have observed bacteria growing, competing, and evolving for 50,000 generations in only 23 years. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

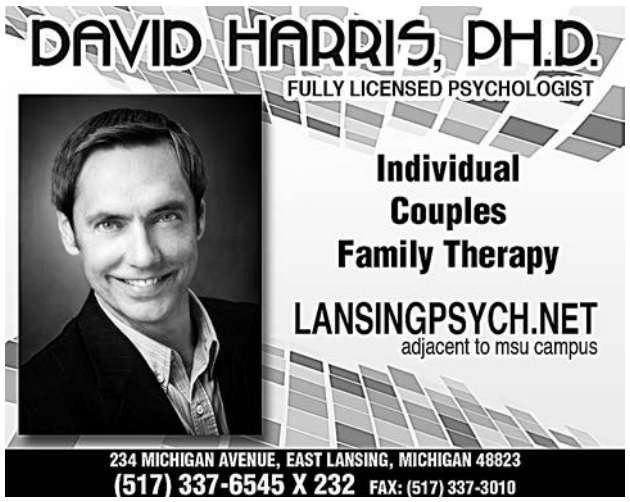
MOCAD "Detroit City: Detroit Affinities" Detroit: Affinities, Speaks and Stages. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 12 - Jan. 31. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

MSU Museum "Turtles in Trouble". Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Oct. 21 - Nov. 9. 517-355-7474. Museum.msu.edu

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Being, Belonging, Becoming" Tickets: $7. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 10 a. m. Nov. 1. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

South Oakland Art Association (SOAA) "Valerie Allen". Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 N. Campbell Road, Royal Oak. 7 p. m. Nov. 3. Sooaklandart.com

The Scarab Club "Annual Photography Exhibition". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Oct. 16 - Nov. 22. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org



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Q Puzzle

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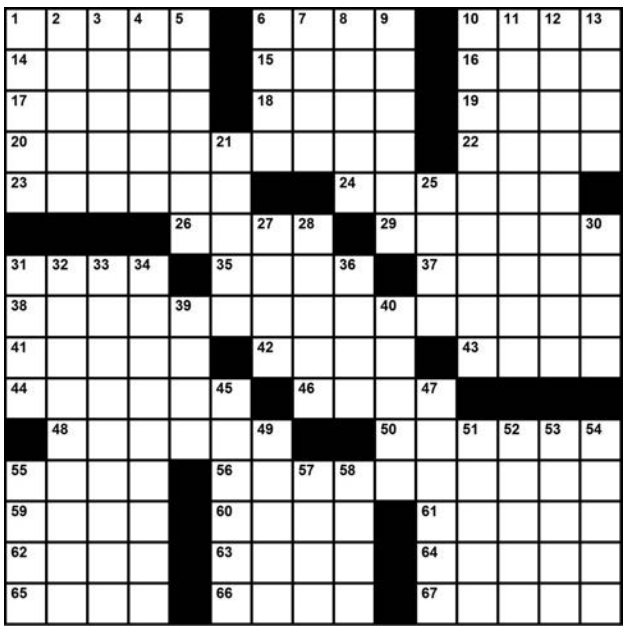

Across

1 Balls, or chases balls
6 Poppycock
10 Splinter group
14 George of "Star Trek"
15 Drama, to NoÎl Coward
16 Melville novel
17 Enjoying a hottie visually
18 Volunteer St.
19 Go to the edge of
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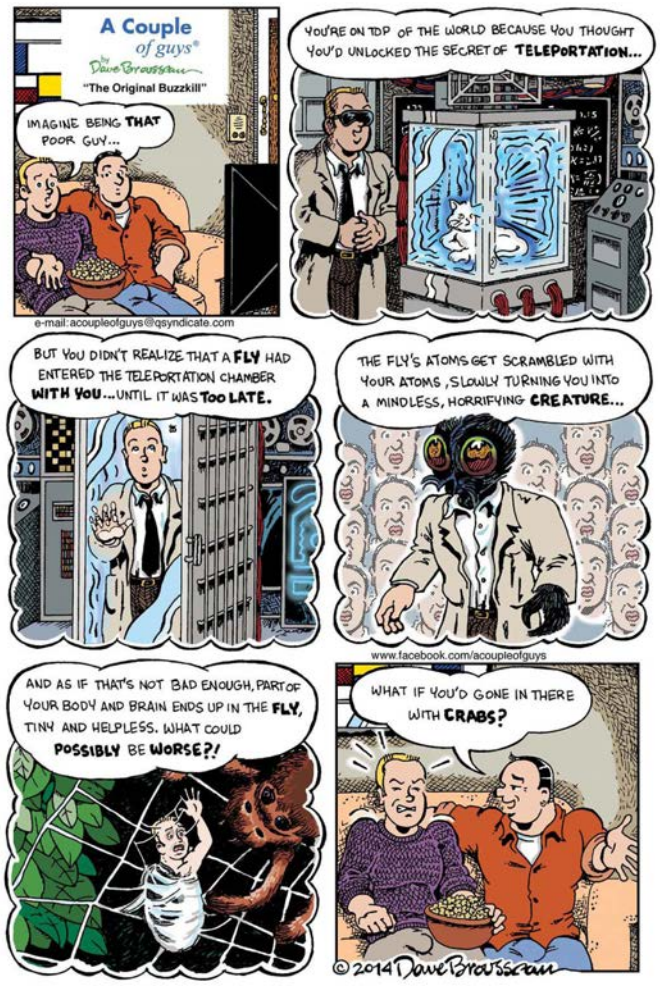
50 Hoffman role
55 Major or minor in music
56 Actress who plays 38-Across
59 Sons of, in Hebrew
60 Clay Aiken, almost
61 Erected
62 Draws a bead
63 Land of Emma Donoghue
64 Makeup maker Lauder
65 Smart-ass output
66 Catch them in South Beach
67 Takes a load off

Down

1 Many go down on them
2 Kahlo portrayer
3 "The Seven Samurai" director Kurosawa
4 Playwright Jean
5 Communicated manually
6 Three-men-in-a-tub event
7 Stick it in milk
8 Lorca's guy
9 Passed (out)
10 "Desperate Housewives," for one
11 Blood clots can cause them
12 Bonheur's revolt
13 Package carrier
21 Leather community, e.g.
25 Have the blahs
27 Research rooms
28 Line from Porter
30 Jaffe or Barrett
31 The Queen Elizabeth, for one
32 Alexander's kingdom
33 She was Daisy Mae on Broadway
34 "Sound of Music" song
36 Michael of "Six Feet Under"
39 Infuriates
40 Certify, with "for"
45 More pink
47 Menotti's man
49 Conductor Boulanger
51 Take a breather
52 Doesn't use
53 Rent sign
54 Rob of "Melrose Place"
55 Corp. recruits
57 "Gilmore Girls" daughter
58 Stein fillers

Solution on pg. 29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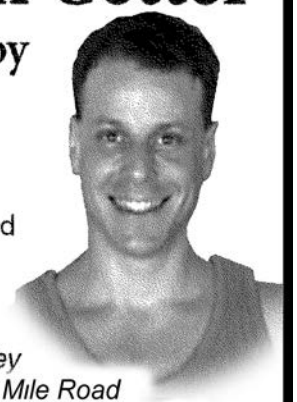

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